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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How much do you intend to spend on back-to-school supplies this year?

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INSIDE



Chinese Food

The gustatory appeal of Chinese cooking has taken the Saipan community by storm.

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War's End

Asia pauses to remember Japan's surrender to the allied forces that ended World War II.

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Back to Bond

Daniel Craig can't help but wonder whether he will ever don James Bond's tuxedo again.

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What lawmakers receive now is more than enough. ...I am one of the longest serving lawmakers here...long enough to know where some of that money goes—to waste.

—House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan)

DESPITE 16-HOUR PAY CUT FOR GOVT WORKERS

Spending bill raises lawmakers' discretionary funding to \$130K

» **Benavente: We can survive with current level of over \$86K**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The revised fiscal year 2011 budget bill that would cut 16 hours from the wages of government employees per pay period will also raise the discretionary fund of each lawmaker, from the current \$86,796 to \$130,000, said Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan).

RELATED NEWS

Over \$6K in discretionary funds changed hands. **PAGE 2**

This translates to a total increase of \$1.25 million in discretionary funding for both representatives and senators. This is on top of each lawmaker's salary, and leadership or chairmanship ac-

See BILL on Page 4

Another quake jolts Marianas

» **USGS records 25 temblors since Saturday**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Another earthquake jolted the area south of the Mariana islands yesterday, bringing to 25 the total number of aftershocks that have rocked the region since a 6.9 magnitude temblor

See **QUAKE** on Page 4

China overtakes Japan in Q2 as No. 2 economy

By TOMOKO A. HOSAKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Japan lost its place as the world's No. 2 economy to China in the

second quarter as receding global growth sapped momentum and stunted a shaky recovery.

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China's growing economy

Selected results of a recent OECD study:

The big picture

Projected for 2010, except where indicated

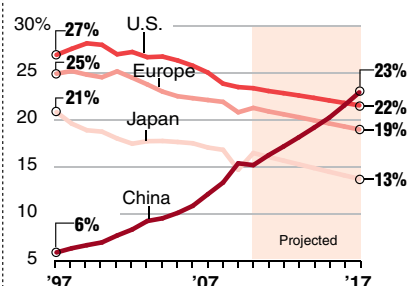
GDP growth	10.2%
Inflation	1.8%
Surplus/deficit % GDP	-0.9%
Trade* % GDP	5.4%
Jobless rate (2008)	5.7%
Personal savings rate (2007)	38%

*Current account balance

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Graphic: Pat Carr

Manufacturing forecast

China is on track to become the world's top manufacturer; world market share, at 2000 prices



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NMC

BACK TO SCHOOL

A member of the Northern Marianas College's registration team help new students register for classes for the college's fall 2010 semester. Registration is ongoing until Saturday, Aug. 21. As of 2pm yesterday, a total of 550 have already enrolled at the college.

See story on Page 3

Audit says Fund, contractor violated agreement. PAGE 5
DPH to lose \$10M if it fails to address Medicare issues. PAGE 7



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Local

IN Q1 OF 17TH LEGISLATURE

Over \$6K in discretionary funds changed hands

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least 14 of 29 members of the 17th Legislature transferred or received anywhere between \$41.66 and \$3,000 in single reprogramming of discretionary funds to their colleagues between January and March this year.

Reprogramming of discretionary fund involved over \$6,000, but lawmakers said yesterday that the transfers of funds were mostly to pay for shared personnel and shared community projects.

The single largest transfer of money was from Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) to Rep. Stanley

Torres (Ind-Saipan), amounting to \$3,000.

"He and I share one common employee, so every quarter he transfers \$3,000 to my account to pay for that employee. There's nothing wrong with that," he said.

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) transferred \$870 to Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan); Benavente said this is because they share a common employee.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) moved \$200 to Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (R-Saipan) account. Tebuteb said this was for a combined donation to a Little

League baseball team for it to be able to buy uniforms.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) also transferred \$562.60 to three House members.

"I help out with community services," he said, when asked what these six separate transfers of money were about.

Torres gave \$41.66 twice to Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero; \$166.66 and \$152.86 to Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan); and \$83.3 and \$76.43 to Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan).

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) transferred a total of \$2,307.72 to Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) on two occasions.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Rafael Demapan also each gave Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero \$300.

Demapan also gave Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) \$100.

These transfers are based on the Office of Management and Budget's quarterly reprogramming of funds report.

Lawmakers and government agencies are required by law to report reprogramming of funds every quarter.

The quarterly discretionary fund allotment is separate from each lawmaker's monthly salary and committee chairmanship budget.

OPA cancels solicitation for dump closure project

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has cancelled the solicitation for the final closure of the Puerto Rico dump following its findings on an appeal filed by ITSI Inc., the winning bidder for the project.

In a 14-page decision dated Aug. 12, OPA ruled that the issue of a design flaw was untimely brought up by ITSI, affirming the decision issued by Procurement and Supply direc-

tor Herman S. Sablan denying ITSI's protest on May 24.

OPA also ascertained in its decision that the bid acceptance period for ITSI has expired, acknowledging that only ITSI has the right to waive the expiration.

Project delay

The final closure of the Puerto Rico Dump is part of the Clean Water Act order between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the CNMI government. Based on the administrative order, the project should have been

completed last Feb. 11.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Commonwealth already notified EPA regarding OPA's decision.

"Moving forward, the Commonwealth will now initiate a timely effort to analyze the problems with the original bid, rectify the outstanding issues; and then re-bid the project," he said.

With the delays brought about by the protests and appeals, DPW Secretary Martin Sablan said it will take several months to complete the bid-

ding process and awarding of contract for the project.

Sablan said they will soon meet with the Capital Improvements Project Office, Procurement and Supply Division, assistant attorney general James Stump, and Henry K. Pangelinan and Associates, the construction management for the project.

He said they will review the whole bid, particularly the scope of work, before re-bidding the project to avoid further delays on its execution.

Findings

ITSI filed a protest with Procurement and Supply on the bid last April 19, claiming that it notified the CNMI "early and often" about the issue on the thickness of the landfill cap.

In denying ITSI's protest, Sablan argued that ITSI did not raise the issue of the design defect in a timely manner.

OPA maintained in its decision that ITSI raised the issue of a design flaw only once, before the bids were submitted. It submitted formal questions about the project design on July 9, 2009.

ITSI waived any claim of design defect by the time it submitted its bid proposal on the project.

OPA added that ITSI did not mention anything about the design flaw during the teleconference with its representatives on Oct. 30, 2009.

Sablan also asserted in his rejection of ITSI's protest that ITSI explicitly and implicitly extended its bid proposal and did not revoke the offer prior to the acceptance of the offer, which made its offer still viable on the basis of the government's reliance upon the bid.

On the issue of bid expiration, OPA ruled that "the ITSI bid expired by its own terms in February 2010" based on procurement regulations.

Although the government can still present the contract to ITSI, OPA said the winning bidder nonetheless had the choice to accept or decline the contract based on the terms it originally proposed.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Happy Children in Paradise



Thousands of children visiting the Northern Marianas this summer continue to get a warm welcome from the Marianas Visitors Authority and its travel partners through their annual

"Happy Children in Paradise" campaign.

The campaign aims to entice children and their families to the islands by offering discounts or free gifts at participating businesses, including restaurants and retail stores. Each child also receives a coupon for a free Saipan-da backpack.

The campaign is heavily promoted each year in Japan and Korea. This year's promotions included a tie-in promotion with Japan's Enfan magazine, targeting families with young children.

The issue featuring "Happy Children in Paradise" was distributed at kindergartens just before summer holidays began last month. Enfan has a circulation of 565,760 readers.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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Itanong mo sa Bro. Eli Soriano...
Biblia ang sasagot!

See OPA on Page 4

Over 500 students enroll on 1st day of NMC registration

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of students showed up at the Northern Marianas

Panel recommends killing marijuana legalization bill

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Natural Resources Committee recommends killing a bill seeking to legalize marijuana for all uses in the Commonwealth.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of House Bill 17-47, said yesterday he is disappointed that the committee decided to recommend filing his bill.

"I believe my bill still has a silent majority support. But I am going to reintroduce it in the form of a legislative initiative, to directly ask people about it," Torres said.

He said his office now has a draft legislative initiative to legalize marijuana for medicinal and all other uses in the CNMI. But Torres said he may not be able to pre-file the initiative in time for today's session.

The Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), prepared Standing Committee Report 17-38 which is on the agenda for today's session.

"After considerable discussion and deliberation on the bill, your committee recommends that House Bill No. 17-47 be filed by the House," said the committee, which held public hearings on the marijuana bill on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Santos' committee has also "reached a consensus that the author will reintroduce his updated legislation and file it as a House legislative initiative."

Torres' Legalization of Marijuana Act of 2010 is the first legislation of its kind to be introduced in the CNMI.

Torres said his bill will legalize marijuana possession and use for medicinal purposes, which is now being done in some states and foreign countries.

He also said that by removing the legal restrictions on marijuana, the quantity and supply of marijuana would diminish the crime and violence associated with attempts to obtain it or protect it by use of force and violence.

"The legal use and possession of medical marijuana that currently exists in approximately 14 jurisdictions of the United States provides legal justification for legalization, not just for medicinal use, but for all purposes as set forth herein," he said in his bill.

The Department of Public Health and the Public School System are opposed to legalizing marijuana use and possession.

College yesterday for the first day of registration for the fall 2010 semester. As of 2pm, the college already had 550 students registered for classes.

NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera was elated with the turnout.

"We are extremely pleased that many students have selected the Northern Marianas College to further their education. We are especially glad to see that many graduates from the CNMI's local high schools are choosing to start smart by starting at NMC," said Cabrera

yesterday.

Enrollment for the fall 2010 semester is still ongoing throughout the week. The last day to register will be on Saturday, Aug. 21.

"I'd like to acknowledge the assistance of many faculty, staff, and students who are helping to facilitate the registration process; everyone is working together to ensure a great start to the fall 2010 semester," Cabrera added.

Students who have not submitted their admission application form can still do so. The

application form and other important information can be found on the college's website, <http://www.nmcnet.edu/>.

According to NMC's financial aid officer, Daisy Manglona-Propst, students can still avail of financial assistance being offered at the college.

"It's not too late to apply for financial aid. Those who are eligible for federal financial aid can still receive up to \$2,775 per semester. I encourage those who need help in filling out financial aid forms to stop by our office at NMC," she said.

There are other scholarships that students can take advantage of, including the College Access Challenge Project and the Natural Resources Management Scholarship Program, she added.

In previous months, NMC held various events to encourage students to apply with the college. These included a number of information sessions, visits to high schools, participation in community events, and other activities. It also hosted a "Cash for College" event to help students find financial assistance for tuition and other college fees, attended by hundreds of students.

NMC is currently working on addressing the concerns of the show-cause order issued in June.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

IN KAGMAN GANG RAPE OF STUDENT

Judge denies suspect's bid to post bail

One of the suspects in the kidnapping and gang rape of a Kagman student asked the court to reduce his \$100,000 cash bail to \$40,000 cash and property but the request was denied yesterday.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, however, agreed to modify Alfred P. Hocog's bail to \$75,000 cash and property, plus house arrest.

Considering the seriousness of the charges, Wiseman said that Hocog poses a danger to the community.

Joaquin Torres, lawyer for the 17-year-old Hocog, had asked the court to reduce the bail and offered the suspect's father as a

third-party custodian. Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher strongly opposed this due to seriousness of the crime.

Jury trial for the case is scheduled to begin on Nov. 8, 2010 at 9am.

Wiseman had found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against Hocog and Joseph C. Camacho Jr. The two are charged with kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Hocog and Camacho, 31, pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Hocog will turn 18 on Aug. 30. The Office of the Attorney General charged him as an adult.

Police said it was Hocog who first beat up the victim and raped her on June 16, 2010.

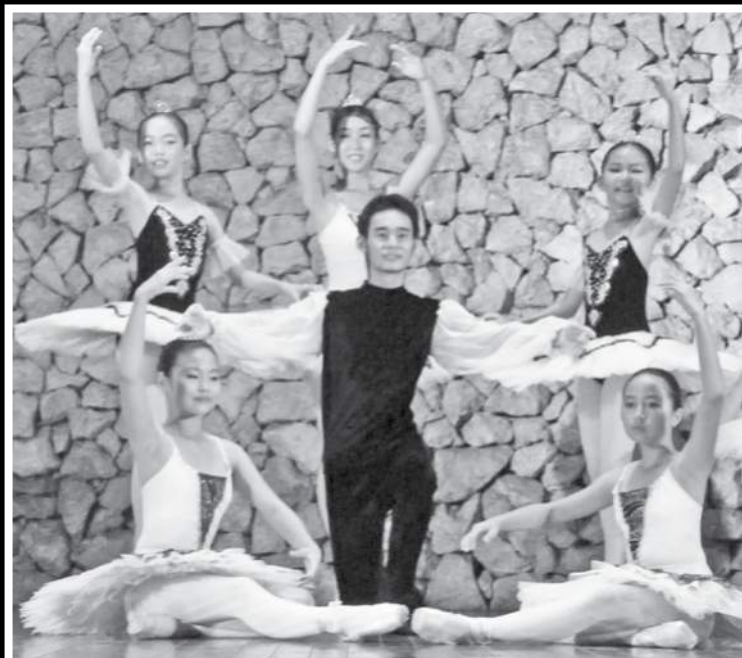
Two days later, Angel Jess Santos, 21, was arrested. Next to be apprehended was 33-year-old Ivan Jones Castro. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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CHINA

From Page 1

Gross domestic product grew at an annualized rate of just 0.4 percent, the government said Monday, far below the annualized 4.4 percent expansion in the first quarter and adding to evidence the global recovery is facing strong headwinds.

The figures underscore China's emergence as an economic power that is changing everything from the global balance of military and financial power to how cars are designed. It is already the biggest exporter, auto buyer and steel producer, and its global influence is expanding.

China has been a major force behind the world's emergence from deep recession, delivering much-needed juice to the U.S., Japan and Europe. Tokyo's latest numbers, however, suggest that Chinese demand alone may not be enough for Japan or other economic giants.

"Japan is the canary in the goldmine because it depends very much on demand in Asia and China, and this demand is cooling quite a bit," said Martin Schulz, senior economist at Fujitsu Research Institute in Tokyo. "This is a warning sign for all major economies that just focusing on overseas demand won't be sufficient."

China has surpassed Japan in quarterly GDP figures before, but this time it's unlikely to relinquish the lead.

China's economy will almost certainly be bigger than Japan's at the end of 2010 because of the huge

difference in each country's growth rates. China is growing at about 10 percent a year, while Japan's economy is forecast to grow between 2 to 3 percent this year. The gap between the size of the two economies at the end of last year was already narrow.

Japan's nominal GDP, which isn't adjusted for price and seasonal variations, was worth \$1.286 trillion in the April-to-June quarter compared with \$1.335 trillion for China. The figures are converted into dollars based on an average exchange rate for the quarter.

Japan has held the No. 2 spot after the U.S. since 1968, when it overtook West Germany. From the ashes of World War II, the country rose to become a global manufacturing and financial powerhouse. But its so-called "economic miracle" turned into a massive real estate bubble in the 1980s before imploding in 1991.

What followed was a decade of stagnant growth and economic malaise from which the country never really recovered. Prime Minister Naoto Kan now faces a long list of daunting problems: a rapidly aging and shrinking population, persistently weak domestic demand, deflation, a strong yen and slowing growth in key export markets.

In contrast, China's growth has been spectacular, its voracious appetite fueling demand for resources, machinery and products from the developing world as well as rich economies like Japan and Australia. China is Japan's top trading partner.

China's rise has produced glaring contradictions. The wealth gap between an elite who profited most from three decades of reform and its poor

majority is so extreme that China has dozens of billionaires while average income for the rest of its 1.3 billion people is among the world's lowest.

Japan's people still are among the world's richest, with a per capita income of \$37,800 last year, compared with China's \$3,600. So are Americans at \$42,240, their economy still by far the biggest.

"We should be concerned about per capita GDP," said Kyohei Morita, chief economist at Barclays Capital in Tokyo. China overtaking Japan "is just symbolic," he said. "It's nothing more than that."

But the symbolism may be exactly the "wake-up call" Japanese leaders need, said Schulz of the Fujitsu Research Institute. "Japan is always strangely inward looking," he said. "And nobody is doing anything about it."

Japan's people appear resigned to the power shift. A national poll conducted earlier this year by the *Asahi*, one of Japan's biggest newspapers, showed a roughly equal split between those that believed Japan's fall to No. 3 posed a major problem and those who did not. More than half of the 2,347 respondents said Japan does not need to be a global superpower.

The country's annualized growth in the second quarter was also sharply below expectations of 2.3 percent in a Kyodo news agency survey of analysts. On a quarterly basis, Japan's GDP—or the total value of the nation's goods and services—grew 0.1 percent from the January-March period, the Cabinet Office said.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 60 percent of GDP,

was flat from the previous quarter, the figures showed. Capital spending by companies rose 0.5 percent, while public investment fell 3.4 percent.

The outlook for the third quarter is uncertain. Private consumption appears to be solid so far, helped in part by unusually hot weather, said Masamichi Adachi, senior economist at JP Morgan Securities Japan. But the slowing global economy is weakening exports and production.

A stronger yen, which hit a 15-year high against the dollar last week, also

poses a major risk for the country's export-driven economy. Yen appreciation reduces the value of repatriated profits for companies like Toyota Motor Corp. and Sony Corp. and makes their products more expensive abroad.

The currency worries led Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda to say last week that he is closely monitoring foreign exchange rates. Bank of Japan Gov. Masaaki Shirakawa released a similar statement to try to calm markets.

BILL

From Page 1

count fund.

Basa, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, met again with his committee until late yesterday afternoon to prepare the revised budget bill that he said he will introduce today.

While \$130,000 is lower than the original proposal of \$155,000—the maximum allowed by the CNMI Constitution—House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said lawmakers should not receive more than what they currently receive at a time when government employees will have an across-the-board cut in work hours.

Basa said his budget bill incorporates austerity measures inherent in Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget submission, including cutting work hours from 80 to 64 per pay period and unpaid holidays.

Benavente said this will effectively reduce the salaries of government employees by 25 percent in fiscal year 2011.

If he could have his way, Benavente said he would propose \$86,800 for each lawmaker, and not \$130,000 or \$155,000.

"What lawmakers receive now, which is \$86,700, is more than enough. ... You cannot tell me I'm wrong about this because I am one of the longest serving lawmakers here, and I've served as a speaker, a member and now minority leader. I know that over \$86,000 is enough," Benavente said in an interview.

But Basa said the increase in the discretionary fund—over \$40,000—will not go into the pocket of lawmakers but will be used to offset funding shortage for the Legislative Bureau and for their precinct projects, among other things.

Benavente, however, is proposing that the Legislative Bureau be given a budget of \$1.78 million instead of \$700,000 for FY 2011.

"I think that the Legislative Bureau budget is only being used to justify giving ourselves \$130,000 or \$155,000. ... Why not just give the bureau more instead of giving ourselves more? I've

been here long enough to know where some of that money [discretionary fund] goes—to waste," he added.

Basa said the budget bill will no longer give a maximum salary of \$1 to the LB director; instead, the director will divvy up the budget based on the amount that will be given to the bureau.

Administration concerns

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos has been meeting with House leadership members and Ways and Means Committee members due to concerns on the budget bill as it was previously written, particularly its failure to include 64 hours per pay period and unpaid holidays inherent in Fitial's budget submission.

Fitial's submission projects \$132 million available for government operations in fiscal year 2011, which begins Oct. 1.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Basa and other House members agreed to include the 16-hour cut per pay period and unpaid holidays to the budget bill.

But Teresa Kim, legal counsel for Inos, said the administration has remaining concerns, including the provision setting aside over \$9.115 million to pay for government utilities and Retirement Fund contributions.

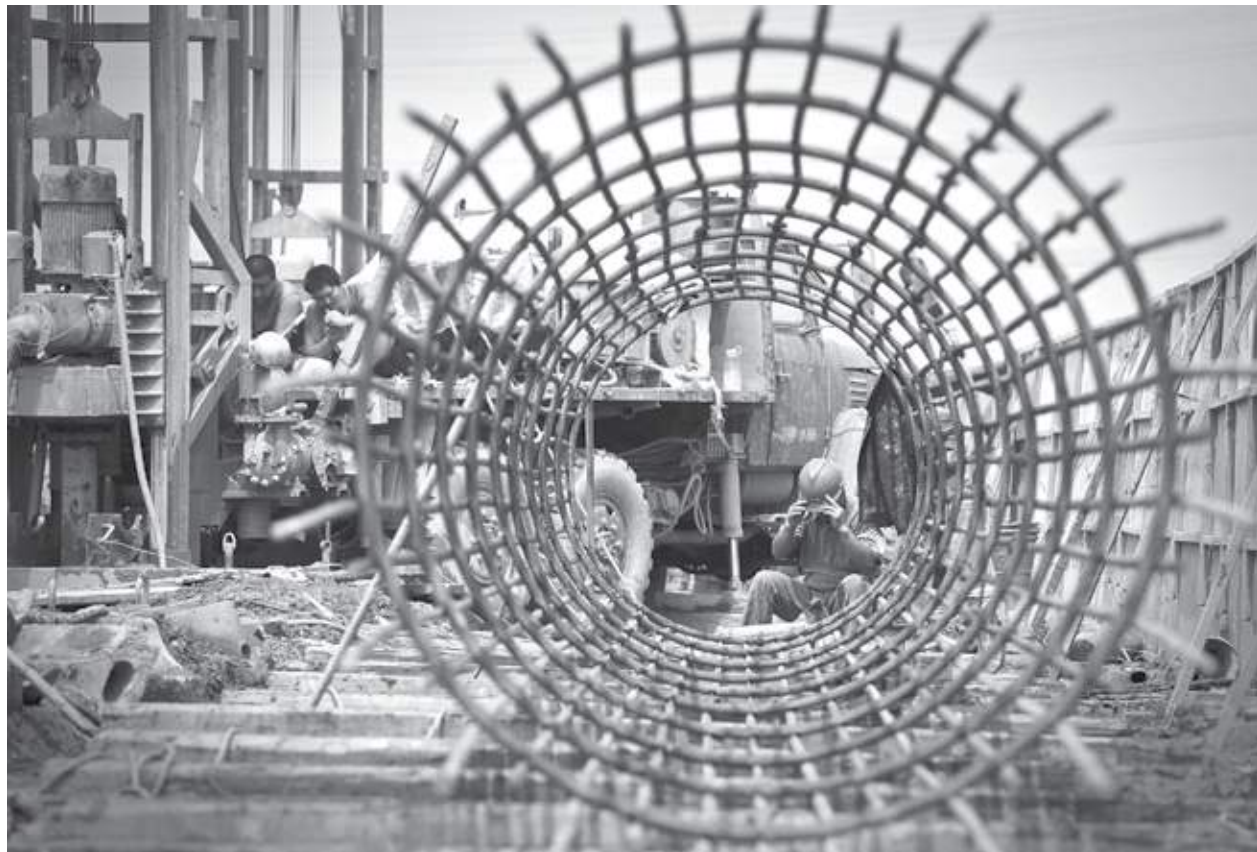
Kim, who was at the House Ways and Means Committee meeting yesterday, cited, for example, the provision on utility payments, saying it has conflicting language. While the over \$9.1 million cannot be reprogrammed for other uses, she said a closer reading of the bill's language allows for such reprogramming.

Despite all this, Basa said a balanced budget bill will be introduced today.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (Cov-Saipan) also said the House will act on the budget bill today.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said the budget bill is expected to undergo changes when it is introduced because of House members' different concerns on the measure's provisions.

Failure to enact a budget before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1 will result in a government shutdown.



In this Aug. 5, 2010, file photo, Chinese workers rest during their lunch break at an under construction highway in Tianjin, China. AP

OPA

From Page 2

OPA also found out that there was not enough evidence to suggest that there was explicit extension on the ITSI bid.

"Since it is the CNMI that is claiming an explicit extension of the acceptance period, the burden is on the CNMI to establish the extension," OPA said.

With regard to the implicit extension of the bid, OPA noted that although ITSI did not demur when the director

identified ITSI as an interested party.

"While OPA agrees this is somewhat troubling, the burden is not on ITSI to explicitly state it would not accept the contract if awarded. The burden is on the CNMI to establish that despite the expiration of the bid acceptance period, the bid is being awarded based on the initial proposal and ITSI is waiving its right to reject the contract," said OPA.

OPA also ruled that the CNMI's detrimental reliance on the ITSI proposal "must be reasonable for it to be actionable."

As for the bid bond, OPA said it has no jurisdiction on the matter. "OPA presumes that were such action to be taken, the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands would be more appropriate venue for injunctive relief."

According to OPA, revision to comply with procurement laws or cancellation are the remedies available in case of a protest or appeal prior to awarding of a contract, prompting OPA to cancel the solicitation and opt to undergo the solicitation process once more.

QUAKE

From Page 1

hit Saturday morning.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, yesterday's 5.1-magnitude earthquake occurred at 7:18am south of the Marianas at a depth of 18.7 kilometers beneath the ocean floor.

USGS said the epicenter was 215 miles southwest of Guam, 265 southwest of Rota, 310 miles east northeast of Yap, and 340 miles southwest of Saipan.

John Takai Camacho, the Emergency Management Office's geophysical seismic technician/supervisor, told *Saipan Tribune* that yesterday's quake—just like those over the weekend—was not

felt in the CNMI as it was very far.

Camacho said that, based on his knowledge, the flurry of temblors since Saturday could be tectonic earthquakes caused by the Earth plate movements. Tectonic earthquake occurs because of the plates sliding against one another.

Camacho said the left side of the Marianas Trench is the Philippine Sea plate, while on the right side is the Pacific plate.

"Saipan is sitting on the edge of the Philippine Sea plate," he said.

After the 6.9 temblor on Saturday morning, seven more followed. On Sunday, the USGS recorded 15 additional temblors—the last one with a magnitude of 4.9, occurring at 11:07pm at a depth of 10 kilometers.

Audit says Fund, contractor violated agreement

» Cites delayed project despite being 90-percent paid

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An independent audit on the NMI Retirement Fund last fiscal year has shown that the agency's vendor for a database system project violated its contract after it failed to implement the project despite being already 90-percent paid.

The 114-page report prepared by J. Scott Magliari & Co. showed that this issue with the company was first raised in the

fiscal year 2008 audit report but the matter remained unresolved through fiscal year 2009.

The contract had required the project's completion by September 2008 but, as of audit date on May 28 this year, the database software has not been fully implemented.

Besides the vendor, the Retirement Fund was also found at fault.

"The vendor is in violation of the terms of the contract and [the Fund] may be in violation

of its fiduciary responsibility for not claiming remuneration from the vendor for the delay in the implementation of the database system as it is 90-percent paid for already," the independent auditors said.

The Fund was specifically cited for lack of oversight on the contractor. J. Scott Magliari said the Fund should have ensured that the terms of contracts were adhered to.

Both the Retirement Fund's acting administrator, Richard Villagomez, and comptroller David Demapan were not available for comment when contacted by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. The board's chairman, Sixto Igisomar, has also yet to

respond as of press time.

The contract violation for the database system project was just one of five audit findings noted in the fiscal year 2009 report.

J. Scott Magliari & Co. also cited a "weakness" in the Fund's internal controls over its receivable balances and recommended that the Fund establish and document a reconciliation procedure wherein the plan sponsor's payable balances are periodically reconciled.

"The confirmation received from a plan sponsor showed significant difference with the employer contributions receivable. [The Fund has] not performed account reconciliation with the plan sponsor," the auditors said, adding that the Fund only uploads payroll information and

does not perform any independent verification.

Different records were also noted in the subsidiary and general ledgers, indicating unreconciled figures. Data show that employer contributions based on general ledger was \$25.743 million compared to records in the subsidiary ledger of \$25.824 million or a difference of over \$80,000; mortgage loan receivables at the general ledger was \$5.636 million compared to per subsidiary ledger record of \$5.9 million; buy back receivable of \$458,911 against \$412,951; and accounts payable with \$1.4 million in the general ledger compared to \$1.5 million in subsidiary ledger, the auditors said.

The auditors also learned that a refund made to a member ex-

ceeded his actual contributions plus interest, resulting in an "overpayment."

In reviewing the Fund's financial statements, the auditors also noted "incomplete" financial reporting to the board of trustees.

In fiscal year 2008, the same audit firm cited three audit findings that are still listed as unresolved in the latest report. These include the employee contribution rate, underpayment of contributions, overpayment of benefits, and documentation of annuitants.

Three findings in fiscal year 2007 and two findings in 2006 were also listed as unresolved. These include overpayments and underpayments of contributions and benefits.

Tinian's Dela Cruz gets face time with potential Japanese investors

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz met with potential visitors and investors for the island during his trip to Japan early this month.

Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* he was in Japan from Aug. 4 to 8 to promote Tinian to prospective Japanese tourists and businessmen and encourage more investments for the island.

According to Dela Cruz, he talked to members of Soka Gokai, a peace movement that is into bone collection in the Northern Marianas for years.

Dela Cruz said he asked the group to resume their bone collection since there were a group of individuals doing boonie stomping who came across what could be remains from the war.

"It's an opportune time for them to start coming back and picking up some of the remains that were left behind," he said, adding that the group is interested in returning to Tinian.

Dela Cruz said he is also looking into the possibility of diversifying the agriculture industry through flower cultivation and production for export to Japan.

According to Dela Cruz, importation of flowers is a big industry in Japan, which gets a portion of its flower supply

from Hawaii.

"There's a lot of flowers that grow wild here but are actually being cultivated in Hawaii," he added.

With the CNMI's proximity to Japan, Dela Cruz said flower export is another industry that the Commonwealth could capitalize on.

He said a Japanese group will visit the CNMI next month to take a look at the flowers that grow on the islands.

Dela Cruz said he also met with investors who are into oyster production. With the congestion at the Hiroshima harbor, Dela Cruz said these investors are looking at other places where they can start farming oysters for export to Japan.

The Tinian mayor said he also met with representatives of a company that makes windmill. He said encouraging companies that will produce alternative energy in the CNMI can make the islands investor-friendly.

"They want to introduce the technology at their cost," Dela Cruz said, adding that businesses on Tinian could actually tap windmills as their power source to save money in the long run.

Although he described his trip as "very fruitful," Dela Cruz said the trip would only be worth it once these investors come in to the island.

"We need to be creative in a lot of promotions," he added.

Automatic salary deduction for outstanding travel advances

Finance Secretary Robert A. Schrack has issued a memo on automatic salary deductions for outstanding travel advances.

He said at the bottom of the "application and account for advance funds" form, there are remarks that all employees should be aware of, specifically about the automatic payroll deduction.

"Upon signature of traveler, this remark allows us to enforce the required policy for payroll deduction without written notice to the traveler. ...Please be informed this policy will immediately be enforced on all

travel vouchers not submitted within 30 days after completion of travel," he said in a memo to Executive Branch departments and activity heads.

Schrack called on agencies to adhere to travel policy requirements.

The cash-strapped government has tightened travel spending, and efforts to cut it have yielded positive results in recent years. Annual government travel spending using local funds went down by as low as 3 percent to as much as 40 percent between calendar years 2005 and 2008. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

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4th suspect in Pizza Hut burglary gets 60-day sentence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who served as a lookout for a group that burglarized the Gualo Rai branch of Pizza Hut in 2006 and stole a steel safe containing cash and checks was sentenced yesterday to 60 days in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Branson Saimon to one year in prison, all suspended except for 60 days, and required him to jointly pay with his co-defendants \$4,095 in restitution to Pizza Hut. He will also perform 160 hours of community service.

The 22-year-old Saimon will start serving his sentence on Oct. 1, 2010 and will be released on Nov. 30, 2010. He will then be placed on two years

of supervised probation.

Saimon was also ordered to pay an \$800 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

In the event Saimon joins the military, his two years of supervised release will automatically expire after just one year and the remaining year will be deemed waived, Wiseman said.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Saimon, Gregg P. Sasamoto, Reiner R. Lazaro, and Genty Williams with conspiracy to commit burglary and theft, burglary, and theft.

Saimon agreed to plead guilty to theft as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charges were dismissed.

In accepting the plea agreement, Wiseman said he considered the age of the case and the fact that the other defendants

had long ago had the matter disposed as it relates to them.

"The court further notes that the plea agreement before the court was agreed upon sometime ago. However, there were personal exigencies of defendant presented to the court which required the court to continue the matter several times for good cause over a period of two or more years," Wiseman said.

Wiseman said he was also informed that Saimon fully coop-

erated with the government and that he is employed and has had no criminal history.

Saimon's co-defendants had also pleaded guilty to theft as part of plea bargains.

Sasamoto pleaded guilty in December 2006 and was sentenced to one year, all suspended except for 45 days.

Williams pleaded guilty in January 2007 and was sentenced to two years in jail, all suspended except for 60 days.

Lazaro pleaded guilty in

May 2008 and was sentenced to one year, all suspended except for 45 days.

On Feb. 9, 2009, presiding judge Robert C. Naraja vacated Williams' conviction and ruled that Williams may not be deemed to have been convicted of the crime for any purpose.

Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke, counsel for Williams, said his client was convicted in January 2007 but his probation was not revoked and

the sentence was not imposed. Williams' term of probation expired on Jan. 25, 2009.

Hardwicke argued that the court loses jurisdiction to revoke the defendant's suspended sentence once the probationary period has ended.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in court papers that the four burglarized Pizza Hut and stole its steel safe containing \$2,843.44 in cash and checks in the early morning of April 9, 2006.

Dental Care official countersues dentist

One of the directors of Dental Care has filed a counterclaim against a Canadian dentist who sued him and the clinic for terminating her employment.

Scot Thompson, through counsel Michael Dotts, filed the counterclaim in federal court against Dr. Masha Maxim for allegedly assaulting him in the clinic.

Thompson asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Maxim to pay him damages for emotional distress. He demanded a jury trial.

Dotts stated in the counterclaim that on May 21, 2010, he and Rod Stewart, a co-director and manager of Dental Care, met with Maxim to review her employment performance over the last year and address her demand for a salary raise.

Dotts said Thompson and Stewart explained that they were not happy with Maxim's performance, particularly her refusal to do extractions, and that they would not be giving her a raise.

Dotts said Maxim then told them that she quits.

Between May 22 and 23, 2010, Dental Care prepared a letter accepting the dentist's resignation.

Dotts said that, on May 24, 2010, Maxim returned to Dental Care to collect her belongings.

The lawyer said that when Thompson handed the letter to her, Maxim hit him repeatedly in the face with her hand.

"As a direct and proximate result of the assault on Thompson, Thompson has had difficulty with one eye," Dotts said.

He said the assault happened in front of an employee that Thompson supervises.

Dotts said the incident embarrassed and humiliated Thompson and affected his ability to supervise employees and perform his job.

Dotts also filed on behalf of Thompson, Stewart, and Dental Care an answer to Maxim's lawsuit.

The lawyer said his clients deny that Maxim sought to rescind her resignation on May

28, 2010.

Dotts said Maxim tried to misrepresent to his clients that she had not resigned.

Maxim sued Dental Care, Thompson, and Stewart for her termination and is asking for damages, sanctions, and penalties.

Maxim alleged, among other things, that before being employed at Dental Care, she told the clinic that she could not provide orthodontic services since that is outside the scope of her practice.

Upon learning that a dental assistant was delivering orthodontic services at Dental Care, Maxim said she objected. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

MVA upgrades Grotto restrooms to cut costs

Restroom facilities at one of Saipan's most popular tourism spots are being improved, with the Marianas Visitors Authority working to enlarge the restroom's holding tank in Grotto, a popular diving and swimming spot in the remote northern part of the island.

With a \$25,000 HUD grant, the MVA and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. have started construction of a 1,000-gallon holding tank, double the size of the existing tank. Construction is slated for completion by September 2010.

"Although the MVA does not have jurisdiction over this land, we have been providing weekly septic pumping services to ensure the public restrooms remain open for both visitors and residents," said MVA Community Programs manager Martin Duenas. "It's been well-maintained operation, but with the construction of the new tank, the MVA hopes to reduce our ongoing septic pumping expenses by half."

The restroom was constructed in several years ago by the Department of Public Works and Division of Parks and Recreation.

The Grotto received over 10,000 visitors in May 2010, according to MVA security reports. **(MVA)**



Workers work on the construction of a 1,000-gallon holding tank at the Grotto. Construction is slated for completion by September 2010.



COURTESY VISIT

Judge David Wiseman of the Commonwealth Superior Court and his wife Faythe pose with Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, in his Pentagon office during a recent visit to Washington, D.C. The Wiseman couple had a personalized tour of the Pentagon arranged by Mabus, who then invited them to his office after the tour for a courtesy visit. Wiseman first met the secretary when he visited Saipan and was hosted for lunch by the Armed Force Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce that Wiseman chairs. Mabus is a former governor of Mississippi and a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-10-2302

For: Representation, Promotion and
Public Relations Services for the Korea Market

Closing Date: September 30, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC-RFP-10-037

Implementation of work plans at Isley Field, CUC Power plant # 3, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced environmental firms for the "Implementation of work plans at Isley Field / CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands". The work includes installation of equipment, data collection and development and implementation of clean up measures. Deliverables also include submission of periodic and appropriate sampling and assessment reports, proposed cleanup action /plan and performance report. A final report will also be required that shows the workplan implementation. All the work will be done as a part of the US EPA Stipulated order No. 2 response action and is subject to their approval. This project will be funded through the grant awarded by the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until August 13, 2010.**

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP- 10-037 Implementation of Work plans at CUC Power Plant No. 3**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **August 24, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CHST) local time**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at email msablan@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **August 5, 2010** at 9:30 AM (CHST) local time at the CUC conference room in 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan building, followed by a Site Visit (to Isley field Saipan).

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the bid offer. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Offerors must submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The proposer is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page — <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **August 17, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Manager, Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net; Technical Manager for Oil, Mr. Will Sword via email sword.william@gmail.com and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DPH to lose \$10M if it fails to address Medicare issues

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health may lose up to \$10 million in reimbursements if the Commonwealth Health Center fails to address all issues and concerns that Medicare raised in its investigation survey early this year.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said the hospital would sustain a significant loss if the situation worsens.

"We're getting at least \$8 to \$10 million a year in reimbursements from Medicare and if we fail to keep our certification, we will incur a huge loss," he said.

He pointed out, though, that it is not Medicare's goal to sanction CHC or stop paying its reimbursements but to ensure that the Commonwealth's hospital follows the latest health care practices so it could provide the best care.

Medicare reimburses the hospital for several services such as for hemodialysis patients, professional fees, laboratory fees, and other facility charges.

"All of these charges would only be reimbursed provided we are certified by Medicare...and that's our goal," he said.

He said violations of Medicare standards and requirements are directly tied with the present financial situation of the CNMI government.

"The deficiencies and issues that were brought up are directly tied with the economic condition. Among them is the timely payment to our vendors, the hiring of needed manpower, and procurement of the needed equipment," said Villagomez, adding that CHC is now in the process of completing all these requirements.

As of last week, the hospital management claimed it was already 90 percent in compliance with all Medicare standards and is ready for the surprise visit of Medicare representatives.

"We will address what Medicare wants us to address, there's no other option for us. But we want to point out that we're not only doing this for Medicare requirements but really...this is for proper patient care," he added.

10k to 15k patients

On a yearly basis, CHC's patient visits range between 10,000 and 15,000, Villagomez said.

"We continue to see a pretty much stable number of visits... from 10,000 to 15,000 across the board, including outpatient services," he said, adding that the hospital's collaboration with private clinics allows many of its patients to avail of services outside the hospital.

"It's not only a financial relief for the hospital, but also the

manpower burden. We're very happy with our partnership with these private clinics that provided outpatient services such as

dental and pediatric services," he said.

CHC's dental clinic, Villagomez said, is focusing on preven-

tion work in schools. It is the goal of the agency to focus on inpatient services at the hospital, he added.

DPH submitted its corrective measures to Medicare on May 6. The federal agency has yet to respond to date. A Medicare team

is expected to visit the hospital soon to validate these corrective measures before a final assessment and decision is made.



Learn more about...

NMC's Accreditation

As announced earlier, NMC was placed on show cause on June 30, 2010. The following questions and responses provide additional information to further explain "show cause" and NMC's accreditation.

Q: Is NMC still accredited?

A: Yes. The recent decision by the accrediting commission to place NMC on Show Cause does not change NMC's accreditation status. NMC is still an accredited institution. The College remains committed to offering a high-quality education and excellent student services.

Q: What is accreditation?

A: Accreditation is a status given to an educational institution that has been found to meet or exceed certain standards of educational quality. The agency that accredits NMC is the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which is part of the Western Association of Schools

Q: Why does accreditation matter?

A: Accreditation matters because it helps to 1) assure the quality of the programs and services that NMC offers, and 2) it fosters and encourages institutional advancement. It also qualifies NMC for certain kinds of federal funds (for example, grants and financial aid).

Q: What does Show Cause Status mean?

A: Show Cause is ordered when the accrediting commission finds an institution to be in substantial non-compliance with its eligibility requirements, standards, or commission policies, or when the institution has not responded to the conditions imposed by the commission.

Q: Why is NMC on Show Cause?

A: ACCJC found that NMC is not in compliance with ACCJC Eligibility Requirements (ERs) and Standards in three general areas: Institutional Autonomy from Outside Interference, Institutional Financial Management and Integrity, and Institutional Governance.

Q: What will happen next?

A: The Northern Marianas College has been asked by ACCJC to submit a report by October 15, 2010 to show what steps the College has taken to address the Commission's concerns. The submission of the report will be followed by a visit from ACCJC representatives.

Q: What is NMC doing to overcome the Show Cause status?

A: Students, staff, faculty and the members of the Board of Regents have overcome show cause before and are confident that NMC's accreditation will be reaffirmed again. The Interim President will be assembling the College's management team to formulate a strategy to achieve affirmation. In the meantime, those who wish to view updates of NMC's accreditation efforts can log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

Q: Can I still register for classes?

A: Yes. Again, NMC is still fully accredited and committed to delivering excellent student services.

Q: Do my classes qualify for transfer?

A: Yes. Credits to other educational institutions will continue to transfer based on the receiving institution's criteria. NMC's counseling office will also continue to assist students with the credit transfer process by providing additional information and documentation regarding course descriptions and curricula.

Q: What happens to my financial aid?

A: Nothing. NMC's accredited status continues and students' financial aid will not be affected.

Q: Where can I find out more information about accreditation?

A: Accreditation updates are regularly posted at NMC's website at www.nmcnet.edu. You can also log on to www.accjc.org for more information about the accrediting commission.



Northern Marianas College

Updated: July 07, 2010

Retirees praise choice of new Fund consultant

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The president of the Commonwealth Retirees Association has praised the choice made by the NMI Retirement Fund in its new investment consultant, saying that many association members were not that happy with the performance of Merrill Lynch.

Juan Sablan said the Fund board of trustees' decision to choose California-based Wilshire Associates Inc. as the Fund's new investment consultant is a good one.

"It's a good decision...because many of our retirees were not happy with Merrill Lynch," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

This was why some retirees sued the Fund's long time investment consultant for overcharging the Fund and for bad investment advice that resulted in millions of losses, he added.

The case is pending in court.

The Fund board selected Wilshire Associates during a board meeting last week, best-

ing three other top candidates that included Merrill Lynch.

Wilshire Associates got the board's approval on the basis of cost, services offered, firm qualification and experience, and management and staff qualifications.

"We're expecting a good performance...and more money for the retirement program. With the new experts, we're hoping to get a positive financial gain for our program," said Sablan.

The hiring of a new invest-

Youth Conservation Corps ends with day of fun

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Youth Conservation Corps summer program at the American Memorial Park culminated with a day of picnic and fun games last Friday to acknowledge the four interns as well as the other volunteers of the National Park Service on Saipan.

The YCC is a regular summer program for high school stu-

ment consultant is necessary so the Fund could finally decide on how it will move forward with its asset allocation.

Two accounts were liquidated last month after the board terminated the contract of one of its money managers, Nicholas Applegate, which handled \$6 million of the Fund's investments. The Fund also liquidated about \$12 million from money manager JP Morgan.

New allocations for these funds will depend on the recommendations and findings of the

dents at the American Memorial Park which ran from June 21 to August 13.

The YCC interns were Glenn Gapor and Nicole Sablan of Kagman High School, Kristine Joy Manacop Leynes of Marianas Baptist Academy, and Courtney Klewei of Marianas High School.

The volunteers consisted of members of the JROTC of the Saipan Southern High School and the US Navy Maritime Prepositioning Ship USNS 1st Lt Jack Lummus led by Commodore Henry Awi.

Park Ranger Nancy A. Kelchner said the picnic, which was organized by the YCC interns themselves, is a way of saying thank you to all the volunteers who have helped the rangers with their activities.

"It's a little reward for our young people for doing a good job," she said.

Parker commended the YCC group, describing them as "ex-

Sobriety checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Rota on Aug. 20, 21, 22, and Sept. 4, 2010.

■ Aug. 20: Along San Francisco Highway Tatachog by the Northern Marianas College, from 9pm to 10:15pm.

■ Aug. 21: Along San Francisco Highway Ugis area, from 8pm to 9:45pm.

■ Aug. 22: Along San Francisco Highway by Teteto Beach, from 7:30pm to 8:15pm.

■ Sept. 4, 2010: Along San Francisco Highway Uyulan area, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

asset modeling liability study, which is still pending to date.

The board is still waiting for the study's final assessment and review from Merrill Lynch.

The retirees' organization is planning to assemble next month to discuss important matters. These include pending legislation that affect the Retirement Fund, including the association's official position on the pension obligation bond, which will be ratified by Commonwealth voters in the Nov. 2 election.

cellent team of employees."

"They used their talents to maximize their services. They really made a mark on the younger people that visited the park over the summer," said Parker.

Leynes, an incoming sophomore at MBA, said her time at YCC was the "best summer" she has ever had.

"I learned that there's a lot more to this world, a lot of people, culture, and lots of history in this island," she said.

Aside from making new friends, Leynes said she had fun in their activities, particularly the Ridge to Reef Rangers.

"I would recommend this program to other kids. It's going to be one of the most memorable experiences they could ever have," said Leynes.

Gapor, 27, said he joined the YCC to become more independent and to help him in his future.

"I enjoyed it. It's fun and good," he added.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 17, 1999

Betel nut imports from RP, Taiwan banned

Local officials will indefinitely ban betel nut imports from the Philippines and Taiwan starting Sept. 6, while experts determine whether or not the plants have caused a disease in local betel nut trees. However, betel nuts from the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau will still be allowed to enter the CNMI. The Division of Agriculture has considered the Philippines and Taiwan "high risk." "We gave the warning one month in advance so that the people who are planning to import betel nuts should do so before that date," according to Stanley Villagomez, acting director of the division.

Teno: No to 5-year stay limit

The proponent of the controversial initiative seeking a five-year stay limit on alien workers on the island is insistent, vowing to lobby support from voters if members of the Legislature reject its inclusion in the ballots during the November midterm elections. But Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez is facing tough opposition from the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, who yesterday finally spoke against his proposal. Tenorio said the Commonwealth still needs labor pool from Asian countries to fill in jobs in the private sector, citing the limited availability of local manpower to address the employment needs of companies on the island.

Aug. 17, 2000

CPA moves to make Tinian, Rota airports self-sufficient

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is aiming to increase the share in overall revenues of Rota and Tinian Airports to become self-sufficient within the next two years, according to Board Chair Roman S. Palacios. At present, only Saipan International Airport generates the bulk, or 96 percent of the combined airport revenues. Saipan International Airport services four international carriers and two commuter carriers offering both passenger and cargo service. Rota and Tinian Airports only serve commuter air carriers between Saipan and Guam.

HANMI reiterates need for tourism master plan

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands has asked the Marianas Visitors Authority to consider drafting a long-term tourism master plan that will help guide tourism officials in marketing the CNMI abroad. HANMI vice president Mustafa Issa has expressed interest in participating in long-term planning by MVA. Tourism officials offered HANMI the opportunity to sit down and review its calendar of annual activities in order to help decide which projects should continue and additional activities the agency should engage in. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said it is very difficult for the tourism office to make any long-term plan because government funding is only made available every year.

Aug. 17, 2001

CDA, CUC trade barbs on competence

The legal battle between two autonomous government agencies has resulted in mudslinging between both camps, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation retaliated against the Commonwealth Development Authority by saying that the Authority was involved too in an issue involving misuse of funds. Beset by allegations of financial mismanagement, the CUC, through counsel Robert T. Torres, virtually called the CDA a hypocrite, following the Authority's pronouncement that the CNMI has lost more than a hundred million dollars in CIP funds. The CDA had claimed the funds would have been used to finance various projects had it not been for CUC's alleged mismanagement.

Guam-NMI tour packages proposed

The Strategic Economic Development Council is proposing new solutions to old problems as it works to strengthen the CNMI's main industries and encourage new investments. As a result of fierce competition among regional vacation destinations vying for a fewer number of Asian tourists, SEDC's Air Service Committee has begun investigating the feasibility of teaming with Guam to offer destination packages highlighting the combined attractions of both destinations. SEDC has begun researching similar packages offered in Hawaii, where approximately 25 percent of visitors opt to stay on more than one island during their vacation. According to Air Service Committee Chair Bob Jones, the feasibility of the program hinges on the ability and willingness of airlines, hotels, tour agents and wholesalers to participate.

Can you identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



The persons featured in last week's photo have been identified as follows: from left James Kaniki, Edwin Lizama, and Juan Diaz Jr. Identified by Ana Pua and Bobbie Lisua Sablan.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Lois Manese, who is celebrating her special day today, Aug. 17, 2010! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

US Navy, Coast Guard renew lifesaving partnership

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Flanked by a Navy MH-60S helicopter and a Coast Guard 25-foot Defender Class response boat, commanding officers from Coast Guard Sector Guam and U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 met Tuesday to mark the renewal of an official agreement to conduct vital search and rescue operations in this region.

“HSC-25 is hands down our premier search and rescue partner. And we have many significant search and rescue partners, Guam Fire and Police departments chief among them,” said Capt. Thomas McK. Sparks, commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam. “Sector Guam has a search and rescue area of responsibility of nearly 2 million square nautical miles, and the closest Coast Guard aircraft are nearly 4,000 miles away. We would not be able to carry out our search and rescue responsibilities without the superb assistance of HSC-25, and I am very grateful to the U.S. Navy and HSC-25.”

The agreement was originally forged in 2006 and has been re-established by Sparks and Cdr. Benjamin Reynolds, commanding officer, U.S. Navy HSC-25. The memorandum of understanding sets guidelines for the request and use of HSC-25 resources



Capt. Thomas McK. Sparks, commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam, and Cdr. Benjamin Reynolds, commanding officer of the U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, shake hands in the presence of Coast Guard and Navy servicemembers after the renewal of an official agreement to conduct vital search and rescue operations in this region.

by Coast Guard Sector Guam to conduct search and rescue and other operations in and around Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

With the Coast Guard's nearest air assets based in Honolulu, Hawaii, HSC-25 helicopters and crews provide a valuable service that has supported 36 search and rescue cases in Fiscal Year

2010, on pace to surpass last year's 38 cases in Guam and the CNMI.

The Coast Guard works closely with other federal and local emergency response agencies to save lives at

sea and reminds the public to report emergencies by calling local authorities or contacting the Coast Guard 24 hours a day, islandwide, at 564-USCG. **(USCG)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free removal of junk cars in Precinct 2

The Saipan Mayor's Office is currently removing junk cars in the Precinct 2 area for free. Precinct 2 residents who want their junk cars removed may call the office of Rep. Ray Palacios at 664-8923 or Rep. Ralph Demapan at 664-8899. **(PR)**

Chamber sets delegate debate

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Washington delegate debate on Oct. 13, 2010, at 6pm, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Special advance-purchase price for Chamber members: two tickets for \$15. Regular advance purchase price: \$10 per person, \$5 per student (with valid student ID). **(PR)**

USS Crommelin arrives today

The USS *Crommelin*, a 453-foot guided missile frigate with approximately 225 officers and crew, will arrive today, Aug. 17. The *Crommelin* will depart Saipan on Thursday. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be represented at the onboard arrival briefing and is tentatively planning to host a reception for the sailors. “Please help us continue to build our reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific Region by warmly welcoming these sailors to our islands,” the Chamber said. **(PR)**

Veterans Town Hall meeting on Friday

There will be a Veterans Town Hall meeting on Aug. 20, 2010, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Dr. James Hastings, director for VA Pacific Health, along with others from VA Health, Benefits, and Vet Center will be on hand to answer questions. Also joining the meeting is U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan. We will also be doing two orientation at the MH II building, 2nd floor, Marina Heights Plaza (future site for VA clinic). First orientation starts at 9:30-10:30am and second will start at 1:30-4:30pm.

For more information, call Ruth at 664-2650 or visit the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at building 1364, Capital Hill. **(PR)**

Veterans' outreach in the CNMI

Tina San Augustine, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs public contact and outreach specialist for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands, will be on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan on Aug. 23-27, 2010, for a veterans outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will also be entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

■ Rota: Aug. 23, 8:30am-4:30pm, at the Mayor's Office conference room

■ Tinian: Aug. 24-25, 8:30am-4:30pm, at the Tinian Municipal Council's office

■ Saipan: Aug. 26-27, 8am-4:30pm, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill building 1364.

For further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. **(PR)**

US Naval Base Guam main gate to be temporarily closed

SANTA RITA, Guam—The main gate of U.S. Naval Base Guam will be temporarily closed for repairs from Aug. 18 to Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Access around-the-clock for authorized motorists to Naval Base Guam will be through the Naval Base back gate in Agat. Access from 5:30am to 7pm Monday through Friday will be at X-Ray Wharf located behind the Navy Housing Office and the T. Stell Newman National Park Visitor Center.

Electronic signs will be in place to provide traffic directions. Motorists should anticipate traffic congestion in the area. **(PR)**

CNMI Boys Scouts organization meeting

Jesus C. Muna, district chairman of the CNMI Boy Scout of America program, is calling on all CNMI Boy Scout leaders to an organizational meeting on Thursday, Aug. 19, at 6pm at the Scout office located north of the Garapan Elementary School, MIHA Housing Unit Q-14. The meeting's agenda will include the reports of the committees, camp promotions and activities, finance, and the island director's report. Adult interested in serving youth through boy scouting are also invited to attend this meeting. For more information, call Cal Reyes 235-9708. **(PR)**

NMC Presidential Search Committee extends application deadline

The Northern Marianas College Presidential Search Committee has announced that it has extended the deadline for accepting applications for NMC president. The new deadline is August 31, 2010. For more information about the presidential

search or to view a copy of the vacancy announcement, please visit www.nmcnet.edu. **(PR)**

Glimpses to hold GAMECON on Sept. 4

Glimpses will be hosting GAMECON and Back To School Expo 2010 at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel on Sept. 4. PC and console gaming enthusiasts will compete for a chance at winning more than \$3,000 in interesting prizes plus trophies and medals. Members of the audience also have a chance to walk away with instant door prizes.

Interested gamers can visit Glimpses/*Beach Road Magazine* office on Middle Road, Megabyte of Saipan, Subway Restaurants, and IT&E for entry forms. Tickets are sold at \$5 for audience and \$20 for gamers. For inquiries call Glimpses/*Beach Road Magazine* at 235-7645 for more details. To request for entry forms via email, write to saipan@glimpsesofguam.com. Gamers may sign up until Aug. 30. **(PR)**

Military training on Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on Warning Area-517 on Aug. 19 and 20 from 7am to midnight. The Navy will conduct training on W-517 on Aug. 17-18 from 8am to 5pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. **(PR)**

Individual education programs: A workshop for parents

The CNMI Public School System encourages all interested parents to attend a workshop on Individual Education Programs on Sept. 1, 2010 at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, Saipan from 8am to 1pm. Parents play an important role in the development and monitoring of their child's IEP. This half-day session will address: the purpose of the IEP; information parents can contribute to the IEP; the process for determining necessary services; monitoring one's child's educational progress; and collaborating with

one's child's team. The workshop will be presented by Carol Kosnitsky. She was involved with the development of one of the first Parent Information Centers in New Hampshire in 1977. She is also a special education director of 20 years. **(PSS)**

Workshop for PSS Special Education staff

The CNMI Public School System encourages all interested special education teachers, teacher aides, related service providers, as well as principals and other PSS administrators to attend this workshop on Individual Education Programs on Aug. 30-31, 2010, at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe, from 8am to 4:30pm. The workshop will be presented by Carol Kosnitsky. **(PSS)**

CCA board to meet today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors will be convening their monthly meeting today, Aug. 17, at the Department of Public Health conference room starting at 3pm. This month's agenda will include review and adoption of the 2009 Annual Report, discussion of the CCA's quarterly financial report ending June 30, updates on the CCA's Pacific CEED Legacy Project grant application, the Program Manager's Review, monthly reports from the Board Committees and Program Manager, and discussion of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition Meeting held on August 4. All Board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or cca@ccamarianas.org. **(CCA)**

Hopwood calendar of activities

■ Aug. 30: Mandatory Student/Parent Orientation at 8am-10am at the stage area.

■ Sept. 1: All HJHS teachers and staff must report to work.

HJHS school uniforms will be readily available at HJHS office, starting Aug. 19 to Sept. 7. Parents can begin placing orders starting Aug. 16 with Ruby Hocog. Students can use their old uniforms until such time that they buy the new blue and gold color uniform.

■ Sept. 7: First day of school.

HJHS school supplies lists will be available at the National Office Supply & Modern Stationary. When buying your child's basic school supplies, be sure to ask the cashier for the list. For more information, call Hopwood at 237-3421, 237-3395. **(PR)**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Bigotry against mosque proposals is un-American

It would be tragic if the embrace of hatred, delusion and fear turn out to be the lasting American legacy of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

These destructive emotions have mushroomed of late, particularly among politicians unashamed of stoking the flames of bigotry for political gain. The ground zero mosque debate is the most obvious example, but *The New York Times* reported last week that many proposed mosques in less symbolic locations across the country are facing the same kind of opposition.

Some people have the courage to stand up for what's right, however. New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg has condemned the religious intolerance exposed in his city's battle over the ground zero mosque. He called the issue a test of our right to the free exercise of religion: "Government should never, never be in the business of telling people how they should pray or where they can pray," he said last week.

Around the country, Americans of all faiths are speaking out against the bigots protesting new mosques in their communities. The *Times* quoted Larry Slusser, a Mormon who is the secretary of his local Interfaith Council and is supporting a Muslim group's attempt to build a mosque in Temecula. "They're Americans," he said. "They deserve to have a place to worship just like everybody else."

The Sept. 11 attacks came from a strand of Islam that is far outside the mainstream, much as Christians who advocate the murder of doctors who perform abortions do not reflect mainstream views. Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, the spiritual leader of the New York mosque, has condemned terrorism in the most unequivocal terms. He is in the vast majority of American Muslims.

Fortunately, Silicon Valley appears to be staying above the fray. A proposal to build a minaret at a Santa Clara mosque is controversial, but the protests seem to be over architecture, not the rights of Muslims to worship there.

Intolerance fomented by irresponsible political and community leaders undermines all that is American. Turning against peace-loving Muslims plays into the hands of those who would destroy us.

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MARGULIES
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A new breed of superhero

Warrior princesses, in comic book folklore, films and TV series, slay armies singlehandedly, wielding their swords and their brains, riding their fabulous horses (or racing on foot) and occasionally allowing themselves a romantic turn. But never does sex, romance or girlie frailty get in the way of the mission: Kill the enemy, stand and conquer.

And so it is today, in this summer of female action heroes. I am talking about Angelina Jolie as the protean CIA undercover agent Evelyn Salt in the film *Salt*, and Noomi Rapace as Lisbeth Salander, the enigmatic bisexual computer genius in the fiction monster hit of our young decade, Stieg Larsson's *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* and its sequels, *The Girl Who Played With Fire* and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*.

Jolie, who made her action-hero mark as the leather-clad archaeologist Lara Croft in the box-office hit *Tomb Raider* movies, has turned the action up several notches as an icy-hot American operative accused of being a Russian sleeper agent. She had joked about wanting to play James Bond but may have gotten something better: a role originally written for Tom Cruise. Jolie transforms the testosterone-and-octane Salt into a more compelling and intriguing character than any of the action-hero boys could've done—yes, even more exciting than Jason Bourne, on whom Salt is pretty much modeled.

Salander is something else altogether. Frail and small (less than 90 pounds, under 5 feet tall), she's antisocial, sullen, cynical. She fears nothing. She outwits assassins. She outruns and outsmarts hired thugs and cretins. She learned cruelty early—as a child, her mother was abused—and grows up distrustful, reclusive, elusive and dangerous. She is a loner, a solo act. She has a certain androgynous beauty, a pierced and tattooed body, chopped-up dark hair, and she treats sex as an exercise, without emotion or sentiment attached to it, here one night, gone the next.

Salt and Salander flip conventional notions of gender roles.

Are these women the new models of millennial femininity? Do they sacrifice being "real" women—with boyfriends, husbands, kids—to fit a male fantasy (Phillip Noyce's, the director of *Salt*, and Larsson's, respectively)? Or are Salt and Salander the right ideal: brainy, independent, physically and emotionally tough, sexual but coldblooded? The movie critic Owen Gleiberman declared them "the new normal." But are they?

While a Tom Cruise action character could have a wife and kids, Evelyn Salt could not. Mothers define attachments; they aren't free to run for their lives. No mother would walk on a narrow ledge way above the ground or jump from a bridge railing onto a speeding truck below or wipe out a gang of Russian killers without breaking

By LUISITA LOPEZ
TORREGROSA

Los Angeles Times

Luisita Lopez Torregrosa writes for *Politics Daily*, the *International Herald Tribune* and other publications. She wrote this for the *Los Angeles Times*.



a sweat, mowing them down like a row of toy ducks at the country fair, after she watches them kill her husband with a shot to the head. Evelyn Salt had to be childless and a widow. Among reviewers and bloggers and commenters and my friends, women are split on this thing about Salt and Salander. Men swoon over Salt and back up Salander, but women are not so sure. Some adore Salander and, to a lesser extent, Salt. Some see them as weird, narcissistic and heartless, putting their careers—killing (mostly) bad people, saving the world—above the gentler pleasures of womanhood. And many women, while applauding Salt's guts and Salander's sang-froid, take it all in as just pulse-racing entertainment, a Saturday matinee fantasy.

Fitting females to these kinds of violent, physical heroics is rare in the Western canon dating to the Greeks and Romans. But since the mid-20th century, as Western women made strides toward political equality, there have been plenty of antecedents for Salt and Salander: *Xena, Warrior Princess*, the *Powerpuff Girls*, *Wonder Woman*, Sarah Connor in *The Terminator*, *La Femme Nikita*, Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) in *Alien*, Beatrix Kiddo (Uma Thurman) in *Kill Bill*. It can't be an accident of timing.

And whether Salt and Salander are women as imagined by men may not really be important in the end. I believe that they are idealized women—even if we don't want to kill people, in real life, we want to be as cool, competent, in control and right as they are. These outsize characters strike a chord deep in us—that's why we fill the theaters for *Salt* and why we buy Larsson's books by the millions.

This summer in particular. On cable there's Annie Walker (Piper Perabo), the muscled blond beauty who plays an undercover spy in the new USA show *Covert Affairs*. There's Jane Rizzoli (Angie Harmon) in TNT's new hit drama *Rizzoli & Isles*, who shoots, thinks and moves like the toughest cop around, all the while ignoring or unaware that she is drop-dead gorgeous (like Jolie in *Salt*, whose beauty and sexuality are subsumed to the action).

None of these women are domesticated. They run with wolves, usually alone, sometimes in pairs, but always ahead of the game. In our dreams—and in our fears.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America will lose when we win in Afghanistan

An old military maxim states, “Amateurs think about strategy and professionals think about logistics.” The U.S. Constitution clearly empowers Congress to be active in logistic questions of war. After the release of documents questioning current and past operations in Afghanistan, Congress faces a tough logistical question about the future—who will pay for the Afghan military once America leaves? That the answer is not the Afghans, nor America, nor our allies, which means that America will lose in Afghanistan even if the current training mission succeeds.

All roads to success in Afghanistan depend on building the Afghan security forces so our troops can finally come home. My experience in helping build a professional Iraqi military from scratch was no easy task, but my challenges in Iraq paled next to the challenges faced by our troops in Afghanistan: the second most corrupt nation in the world, without a strong or legitimate central government, poor education and infrastructure, and a tribal mentality.

Setting aside these significant challenges, logistics determine American blood and tax dollars will create a force too small to se-

cure Afghanistan yet too large for Afghanistan to maintain. The U.S. Army’s current counterinsurgency doctrine recommends a minimum force ratio of 1 to 50 (i.e. an Afghan policeman or soldier to keep the peace for every 50 civilians). Afghanistan’s current population is 29,121,000. Therefore, securing Afghanistan will require, at minimum, 582,000 Afghan security personnel, a force larger than the active U.S. Army.

Yet America’s current mission is not to expand the Afghan security force to 582,000, but 400,000. Even this reduced number will still cost Afghanistan at least 20 percent of its GDP, by far the greatest percentage on military spending by any nation.

Who will pay for the future Afghan army? The Afghans can’t. Our allies won’t. And America’s soaring deficits indicate America can’t pay forever.

After a decade of U.S. military sacrifice and billions of taxpayer dollars, America will have created 400,000 trained, armed but unpaid Afghans. Their future employment is the seed of the next Afghan civil war or a nuclear armed al-Qaeda.

It is past time for Congress to make the difficult decisions about Afghanistan. Tax dollars spent building an Afghan military are dol-

By TOMMY SOWERS

McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Tommy Sowers is an 11-year Army Special Forces veteran and a Democratic candidate for Congress from Missouri’s 8th Congressional District.

lars not spent toward defeating al-Qaeda. America’s limited security resources must be focused on hunting down and destroying al-Qaeda where it exists—in Pakistan, Yemen or Somalia—not where it was or could be one day.

This logistical reality becomes more expensive every day Congress waits. With the lowest number of veterans in Congress since World War II, Congress must believe it is unqualified to ask these logistical questions now. But nine years in, it is far past time for Congress to start thinking about Afghanistan as professionals, not amateurs.

Repeal of 14th Amendment is un-American

By DAVID A. LOVE

PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

The call by some conservative lawmakers to repeal the 14th Amendment represents the worst of America.

At a time of economic hardship when we should be uniting people and making them whole, such an idea will only serve to sow the seeds of hate and division.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.,—who does not think that the children of undocumented immigrants should automatically become citizens—has proposed a piece of legislation to begin repealing the amendment. And Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., has called for hearings into the matter.

Adopted on July 9, 1868, and championed by the so-called “Radical Republicans” in Congress, the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution grants citizenship as a birthright. The citizenship clause states: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United

States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” This clause was important because it thwarted attempts by Southern states to deny citizenships to former slaves.

But little of these details on the history or the importance of the 14th Amendment mean much to those who would repeal it. Rather, they only seem to care about scoring political points.

And while they could develop positive solutions in the area of immigration reform, they choose to divide people along lines of color, race, ethnicity, class, language and national origin.

In the current economic recession, people are in despair and are looking for scapegoats. People blame immigrants—particularly Latinos and undocumented workers—for losing their jobs and livelihoods. Patriot and militia groups patrol the border and harass and threaten Latinos. And while hate groups and the tea party move-

ment exploit these insecurities, some unscrupulous lawmakers are trying to codify this hatred.

This is such a bad idea that even Lou Dobbs disagrees with it.

“I part ways with the senators on that because I believe the 14th Amendment, particularly in its due process and equal protection clauses, is so important,” Dobbs said. “It lays the foundation for the entire Bill of Rights being applied to the states.” Giving away the 14th Amendment is giving up on America. Citizenship should remain a birthright in this nation of immigrants. But that right was a secured only by fighting a bloody Civil War and overcoming a brutal legacy of slavery.

Sadly, some people want us to turn the clock back to the antebellum days.

David A. Love is executive editor of BlackCommentator.com. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

Letters to the Editor

The truth behind the CNRA status report

Senator Manglona: The issue of what to do with the foreign guest workers presently in the CNMI is well written within the contents of U.S. Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. I’d like to point you directly to a section written and reported by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of U.S. Congress. On May 7, 2010, a report prepared and submitted by GAO to Sen. Jeff Bingaman, chairman of the Committee and Natural Resources, and to Rep. Nick J. Rahall, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, reported the following: “U.S. immigration law provides that non-citizens who are in this country (CNMI)—regardless of whether they entered legally or illegally—may be granted humanitarian protection in the form of asylum if they demonstrate that they cannot return to their home country because they have a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Aliens in the CNMI may not apply for asylum during the transition period. However, aliens physically present in the CNMI are protected by the provisions of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which generally prohibits removal of an alien to a country where he or she would likely be persecuted on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Aliens are also protected by the provisions of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.”

Senator, the provisions in Public Law 110-229 are all about national security and border control, not outright citizenship or permanent residency. As for the recommendations submitted by the Department of the Interior, you are correct that the law asked for a report after two years of enactment concerning the status of guest workers in the CNMI. Again, I ask you this: Do you think the law requested and asked for a recommendation on outright citizenship or permanent residency? If so, point me where in U.S. Public Law 110-229 specifies such a request.

The CNRA requires that GAO report on the implementation of federal immigration laws in the CNMI. This report describes the steps federal agencies have taken to (1) secure the border in the

CNMI and (2) implement CNRA with regard to workers, visitors, and investors. The CNRA does not allow aliens present in the CNMI to apply for asylum until 2015. In the interim, an alien present in the CNMI can request not to be removed based on a claim of protection from persecution or torture. I believe that such a report asked whether the orderly phasing in and phasing out of guest workers in the CNMI is being adhered to by both our government and the federal government and especially whether our government is fully cooperating during the transition. Furthermore, I firmly believe that the Interior Department submitted a self-interest recommendation report and the motives should be investigated for it totally contradicts the law on border control.

Gregorio Cruz

Papago, Saipan

Resolve issues with my lot

This is an open letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and CNMI leaders. I’m a proud American soldier from the beautiful island of Luta, who is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces with numerous combat tours.

I’m frustrated to know and learn that up until now my agriculture lot has never been released and approved by the relevant agencies, especially the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. It’s been already been going on for 20 years and nothing has been done to help resolve my case. I have seen some agricultural lots that have been greatly impacted by the Marianas crow, but were given their permits and title. Why? I don’t know!

I have future plans to return back home and deal with the tragic memories (PTSD) of the war and experiences been dealt with. I want to settle into the agriculture lot that I have been maintaining and clearing for almost 20 years now. The land is all cleared with coconut trees and citrus plans. I have met all requirements to get my title and deed. There is no habitat for the Marianas crow within that property. I want to thank my congresswoman, Teresita A. Santos, for aggressively pushing to resolve the overall issues of lots still pending for release. I hope the U.S. Fish and Wildlife could hear my sentiments and work cooperatively with all agencies to resolve this issue.

Staff Sgt. Edward C. Barcinas

Schofield, Hawaii

Umbrella permit

Umbrella permits are causing a problem in the CNMI because these permits allow alien workers to stay until November 2011 even without an employer. The same with parole—alien workers can exit and come back, yet some of them have no sponsors. They are not tourists but they are legally here. What if November comes and there is no green card and no amnesty? We will have a problem because who will send them home: CNMI Labor or the federal government?

I must point out, however, that these alien workers are not asking us for status; they are asking America. Why can’t we support them? Many residents say that if the 20,000 guest workers are granted citizenship they will get our jobs. Others say they will abolish Article XII. Other say they will ruin our government because we will be outnumbered. I believe these people are wrong.

In Hawaii, a Filipino-American ran for governor and he won by a landslide. You mean to say Filipinos outnumbered Hawaiians enough to accomplish this? What were his accomplishments? He improved the economy, brought in more tourists, and his farming bill benefited native farmers. Again, a Filipino-American ran for mayor in Guam and he won by a landslide margin among the other candidates. You mean to say the Chamorros were outnumbered in Tamuning? No! What were his accomplishments? Within three months in office Tamuning got a reward as one of the cleanest village in Guam. I am referring to no other than Mayor Alfredo Dunca. There were no excuses for the mayor. If he sees a junk car in your yard, the towing truck is there right away to pick it up and throw it in the dumpsite. Every month they have inspections from village to village and Tamuning was always the cleanest. Is that bad? What about this Filipino Dr. Spaldon, who won a seat in the Guam Senate? He improved the economy, health care, and the condition of the hospital. He was the one who recommended the spraying of every village at 5pm to kill the mosquitoes and prevent dengue.

I support the Interior recommendations to Congress but if you are really against alien workers, go to the Labor and tell them: “No more umbrella, no more parole, and no more over-staying aliens.”






Teddy Guiao

Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly sunny with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 76

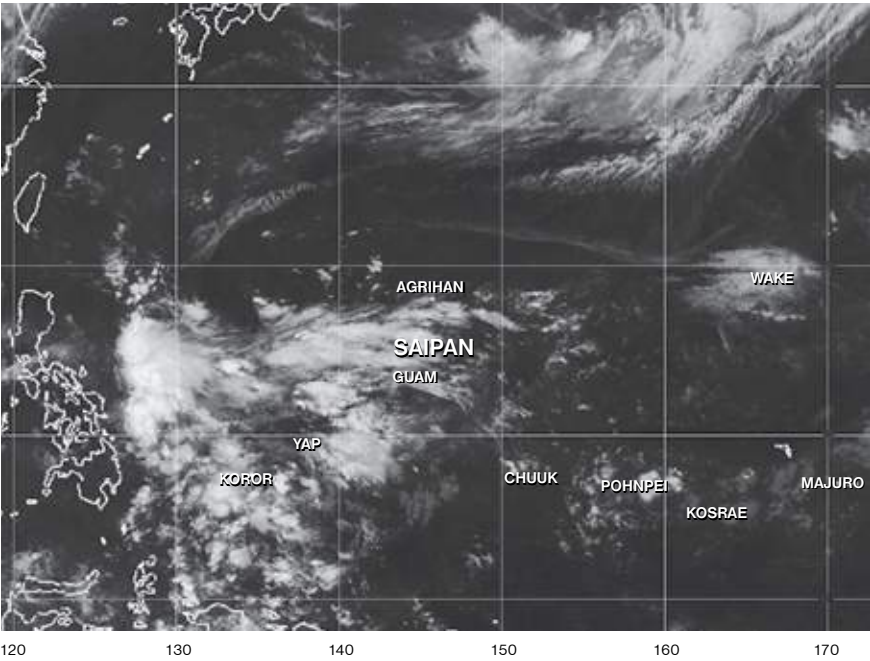
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 53
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲ 78 ▼ 69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 72
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 95 ▼ 77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 56
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 64
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 94 ▼ 56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 74
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 75

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
7:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
2:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
7:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergence within low-level southeast flow to the northwest of Palau and convergence associated with a trough stretching southwestward from the Marianas to south of Palau. or from 16N145E to 5N135E is combining with upper-level divergence south and southwest of an upper-level low near 19N140E to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau and Yap and just west of the Marianas within a large area bounded by a line from EQ130E to 17N130E to 17N145E to EQ137E back to EQ130E. A surface trough located northeast of Majuro extends southwestward from 13N175E to 8N173E. Scattered showers are found just east of the trough axis within 100 miles of a line from 13N177E to 9N177E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:44 PM	
Wednesday	1:41 PM	12:14 AM
Thursday	2:35 PM	1:07 AM
Friday	3:25 PM	2:01 AM
Saturday	4:11 PM	2:54 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 16, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 3:20pm 5:55pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:10pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 9:45am 2:20pm Daily DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:10am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA DL640 7:40am 10:20am Daily	NAGOYA-SAIPAN DL641 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5	BEIJING-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am +1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:10pm Daily via NRT DL640/629 7:40am 10:35pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL630/641 6:30am 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO DL172/288 7:40am 1:10am+1 Daily via NRT C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business



HR MATTERS

Compensation questions

By FRANK GIBSON

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I was asked a couple of questions this week regarding compensation that I thought might be of interest. One involved overtime payment and the other was a question of salary deductions from an exempt employee. Both of these compensation issues are regulated by the Fair Labor Standards Act, or FLSA, a federal labor law. As you are probably aware, employees are termed non-exempt (not exempted from the provisions of the FLSA) if they are required to be paid for overtime work, or exempt if they are not required to be paid for overtime hours worked.

Question: I was hired into a job that required a lengthy amount of training before starting the actual performance of the job's duties. My position is eligible for overtime payment, but I was told that I wouldn't be paid any overtime because I was a trainee. Should I have been paid overtime for the hours beyond 40 in a week?

A: You should be paid for all hours that you worked. If your employer required you to attend training, a lecture, or a class during or outside of your regular work hours, then the time probably counts as "hours worked." Your employer owes you overtime pay, if all hours you worked (including the training, but not any annual leave, sick leave or holidays) exceeded 40 in the same workweek. The overtime threshold differs for public sector employees directly involved in law enforcement or fire protection work: 43 and 53 hours respectively in a 7-day work period.

Under the FLSA, attendance at lectures, meetings, training programs and similar activities would not be counted as working time or paid if the following four criteria are met:

- attendance is outside of the employee's regular working hours;
- attendance is, in fact, voluntary;
- the course, lecture, or meeting is not directly related to the employee's job; and
- the employee does not perform any productive work during such attendance.

All of the above must be met for it not to count as work. Of course, attendance is not voluntary if it is required by your employer or if you were told or believed that you would be fired or your employment compromised by not attending. Since you have stated that this training was part of your initial introduction to your job, attendance would not appear to be voluntary.

■ ■ ■ ■

Question: I'm an overtime exempt employee—paid on a salary basis. I regularly work extra hours and don't get paid for them, but if I come in late, that time is deducted from my salary unless I have the time deducted from my annual leave. Can they do that? It doesn't seem fair.

A: There are some legitimate occasions where absences of a full day can be deducted from an overtime exempt employee's salary—but periods of tardiness, shorter than a full day, is not one of them. Such deductions, often called docking of pay, if improperly made, can result in an employee's overtime status being changed to non-exempt with the company being obligated to pay overtime and possibly back-paying overtime for up to three years. That being said, your employer can require you to use either annual or sick leave, depending on the circumstances and company policy, to make up the tardiness. However, if you have no annual leave or sick leave and the tardiness is deducted from your salary, the deduction is inappropriate and in violation of the FLSA, placing your company in jeopardy of losing your exempt salaried status.

In answer to the second question "Is it fair?" to deduct it from annual leave. No, it's not really fair if you have been putting in extra time, unpaid. Your employer should consider that, also. However, just being overtime exempt doesn't allow an employee to create his or her own schedule or disregard the employer's time and attendance requirements or expectations. Although the employer cannot properly "dock" an employee's pay for tardiness, it can certainly be a topic for discussion and disciplinary action, if necessary.

In both cases, if you feel that you have not been treated in accordance with the FLSA, talk with your employer in an attempt to resolve it, and/or bring it to the attention of your human resource management office. If you still do not feel the matter has been resolved properly, contact the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division (233-0730) to discuss it.

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipan-tribune.com.

Gourmet Restaurant recreates Chinese dining

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The gustatory appeal of Chinese cooking has taken the Saipan community by storm. Chinese food has become so popular that a number of Chinese restaurants have sprouted on the island, an indication of substantial interest and solid appreciation for the aroma and flavor of Chinese cooking.

But in an era when people have mostly become health buffs, the key to enjoy Chinese culinary experience lies in the use of ingredients and food preparation, says Jackie Ha, owner of Gourmet Restaurant.

A native of Hong Kong, Ha loves to cook and eat different styles of Chinese food that she decided to open Gourmet Restaurant in August 2007.

Located between Dollar Days and Sun Leader in Garapan, Gourmet Restaurant will draw you in not only because of its spick-and-span interior but most especially with its delectably tasty yet highly nutritious authentic Chinese dishes.

Ha highly recommends the Braised Pork in Earthen Jar. For only \$20, have a go at the scrumptious meaty creation that is nevertheless good for the health since the oil of the meat is considerably reduced in the manner it is cooked in the clay pot.

Definitely worth trying is the \$16 dish called Steamed Egg White with Assorted Seafood. The healthier part of the egg is steamed, expertly flavored and garnished with shrimp, scallop, mushroom, abalone, crab meat, and scallop flakes.

The Sauteed Shrimp Hong Kong-style is a must for shrimp lovers out there. At \$10 for a half order, you can already enjoy six pieces of fresh, locally grown shrimps skillfully cooked and textured with a hint of chili and topped with crunchy flakes.

Gourmet Restaurant also boasts of a wide selection of dimsum specialties that, although low-priced, are very much appetizing. On Sundays, they whip up special dimsum such as barbecue pork pastry, said Ha.

The popular Pot Sticker Dumpling or commonly known as the Gyoza is made of fresh and home-made wrapper that guarantees its delectable taste. One order has four pieces and only costs a measly \$3.

An order of the yummy dessert Sesame Roll or *buchi*, which has flavorful



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Gourmet Restaurant is located between Dollar Days and Sun Leader in Garapan. For orders, reservation or information, call 233-7260 or 233-3076.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Sauteed Shrimp Hong Kong-style is a must for shrimp lovers out there. At \$10 for a half order, you can already enjoy six pieces of fresh, locally grown shrimps skillfully cooked and textured with a hint of chili and topped with crunchy flakes.

red bean paste inside is very inexpensive at also \$3.

According to Ha, Gourmet Restaurant's cooks are all highly skilled and experienced in preparing dishes from the different regions of China. They can cook the Peking Duck, Roasted Duck, Szechuan Barbecue Pork, and other Chinese favorites to the customer's liking.

What makes the dishes at Gourmet Restaurant more than satisfactory is their large servings that one dish would already be good for about two to three diners, added Ha.

To experience the full gourmet force, patrons can take advantage of their special set menu for only \$6.99 for one choice, \$12.99 for two choices, and \$18.99 for three choices. You can choose from the 34 dishes included in the menu. All choices are served with any of the four types of soup and steam rice.

Ha said they also accept party reservations and do caterings for parties. Orders must be placed at least three days in advance, she said.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Steamed Egg White with Assorted Seafood. The healthier part of the egg is steamed, expertly flavored and garnished with shrimp, scallop, mushroom, abalone, crab meat, and scallop flakes.

Experience Chinese cuisine at its finest only at Gourmet Restaurant. They are open Monday to Sunday, 11am to 2pm for lunch and 6pm to 10pm for dinner. Major cards are accepted. Locals can enjoy 20-percent discount for the a la carte dishes, including their extensive drinks menu.

For orders, reservation or information, call 233-7260 or 233-3076.

Gulf driller to light up cigar after job is done

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The man with pinpoint accuracy who is drilling the relief well meant to plug BP's runaway well is looking forward to finishing his mission and celebrating with a cigar, a dinner party with his crew and a trip somewhere quiet to unwind with his wife.

John Wright has never missed his target over the years, successfully drilling 40 relief wells that were used to plug leaks around the world. People along the Gulf Coast aren't the only ones hoping he can make it 41-for-41.

"Anyone who has ever worked extremely hard on a long project wants to see it successfully finished, as long as it serves its intended purpose," Wright, 56, who is leading the team drilling the primary relief well, said in a lengthy e-mail exchange with The Associated Press from the Development Driller III vessel.

"That is where my job satisfaction is derived."

BP began work on its primary relief well in early May to permanently seal the ruptured well. But about two weeks ago, around the time the company had done a successful static kill pumping mud and cement into the top of the well, executives began signaling that the bottom kill procedure might not be needed. Even the government's point man on the spill response, retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, suggested that was possible.

Allen put that uncertainty to rest on Friday and Saturday, saying the relief well would be finished so the well could be killed. The bottom kill, in which mud and cement will plug the well from below the seafloor, won't be started until at least next weekend.

Wright said he would not have been disappointed if the relief well was halted, recalling the time his high school football team won the city championship in Houston in 1970.

"I never made a touchdown or scored a point, but I was proud to be part of the team that won and that I had done my job," said Wright, who has two daughters and three grandchildren. The Deepwater Horizon rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers and causing 206 million gallons of oil to spew from BP's well a mile beneath the surface of the Gulf of Mexico.

And with shrimp season opening along Louisiana's coast Monday, uncertainties remain over prices, demand and whether oil from the disaster still lurks unseen beneath the water's surface.

Wright said he was part of a team that started planning the relief well in May, working 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week. He has been on the DDIII rig nearly nonstop since June 19.

"Offshore we sleep when we can and work when we have to," Wright said. "It is rare to sleep eight hours straight unless we are on standby."

Nation

Off-road racer rolls truck into crowd, killing 8

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (AP)—The crowd at the off-road race was almost close enough to touch the trucks as they hurtled and bounced over the desert sand—close enough for one mistake to end eight lives.

Hundreds of thrill-seeking fans watched in horror Saturday night as one racer took a jump at high speed, hit his brakes on landing and rolled his truck sideways into spectators, sending bodies flying on a section of track that had no guardrails or anything else to keep the crowd back. Eight people were killed and 12 were injured at the California 200, a race in the Mojave Desert about 100 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

"You could touch it if you wanted to. It's part of the excitement," said 19-year-old Niky Carmikle, who stood sobbing over a makeshift memorial on the spot of the crash Sunday.

Her boyfriend, 24-year-old Zachary Freeman of Ventura, was killed in the crash. "There's always that risk factor, but you just don't expect that it will happen to you."

California Highway Patrol Officer Joaquin Zubieta said Brett M. Sloppy, 28, of San Marcos, was behind the wheel of the truck involved in the crash. Zubieta said alcohol was not a factor in the crash and there were no plans to arrest Sloppy.

Zubieta said state vehicle codes don't apply because the race was a sanctioned event held with the approval of the federal Bureau of Land Man-

agement, which owns the land used for the race.

Tens of thousands of people were spread out along the 50-mile track, but the site of the crash, a stretch known as the "rockpile," is one of the most popular areas to gather, witnesses said. Some witnesses said they got within 4 feet of the unmarked track, watching trucks fly over a series of jumps. Several jagged rocks jut from the sand track at the bottom of the hill.

The driver "hit the rock and just lost control and tumbled," said Matt March, 24, of Wildomar, who was standing next to the jump. "Bodies went everywhere."

March said he and several other fans lifted the truck, which

came to rest with its oversized wheels pointing toward the sky, and found four people lying unconscious underneath.

John Payne, 20, of Anaheim,

said he was among the first people to reach the truck. He said the victims included one person who was decapitated.

Carmikle had gone to the

bathroom when the crash happened. When she came back, Freeman and his best friend, 24-year-old Dustin Malson of Ventura, were dead.

Teen sex not always bad for school performance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's good news for parents who worry that their teenagers' sex lives are affecting their school performance: A provocative new study has found that teens in committed relationships do no better or worse in school than those who don't have sex.

The same isn't true for teens who "hook up." Researchers found that those who have casual flings get lower grades and have more school-related problems compared with those who abstain.

The findings, presented Sunday at a meeting of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta, challenge to some extent assumptions that sexually active teens tend to do poorer in school.

It's not so much whether a teen has sex that determines academic success, the researchers say, but the type of sexual relationship they're engaged in. Teens in serious relationships may find social and emotional support in their sex partners, reducing their anxiety and stress levels in life and in school.

"This should give some comfort to parents who may be concerned that their teen-

age son or daughter is dating," said sociologist Peggy Giordano of Bowling Green State University, who had no role in the research. Teen sex is "not going to derail their educational trajectories," she said.

Last year, nearly half of high school students reported having sexual intercourse, and 14 percent have had four or more partners, according to a federal survey released this summer.

For the study, University of California, Davis sociologist Bill McCarthy and University of Minnesota sociologist Eric Grodsky

analyzed surveys and school transcripts from the largest national follow-up study of teens that began during the 1994-95 academic year. The researchers said not much has changed in terms of when teens first have sex or attitudes toward teen sex in the past decade.

The duo examined how teens' sexual behaviors affected their learning and controlled for factors that might influence their results.

Among the findings:

■ Teens in serious relationships did not differ from their abstinent counterparts in terms

of their grade-point average, how attached they are to school or college expectations. They were also not more likely to have problems in school, be suspended or absent.

■ Compared with virgins, teens who have casual sex had lower GPAs, cared less about school and experienced more problems in school. For example, female teens who have flings had GPAs that were 0.16 points lower than abstinent teens. Male teens who have casual sex had GPAs that were 0.30 points lower than those who do not have sex. Teens who hook up also were at greater risk of being suspended or expelled and had lower odds of expecting to go to college.

■ Teens who have sex—whether it's a serious or casual relationship—were at higher risk of being truant and dropping out compared with teens who don't have sex. The researchers said the dropout results should be interpreted with caution because the numbers were small.

"Having sex outside of a romantic relationship may exacerbate the stress youths experience, contributing to problems in school," Grodsky said.



AP
Randall Peterson of Fillmore, Calif., points Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010 to where an off-road race truck went out of control and ran into a crowd of spectators, including his step-son, Zachary Freeman, 24, during a race in Lucerne Valley, Calif., on Saturday.

Craigslist killing suspect dead in Mass. suicide

By **STEPHEN SINGER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

A former medical student accused of killing a masseuse he met through Craigslist committed suicide in the Boston jail where he was awaiting trial, authorities said Sunday.

Philip Markoff, 24, was found unresponsive in his cell Sunday morning in the Nashua Street Jail, the Suffolk County district attorney's office said in an e-mailed statement, and he was pronounced dead at about 10:15 a.m.

"Markoff was alone in his cell, and all evidence collected thus far indicates that he took his own life," the statement said.

Authorities will investigate to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding his death, the district attorney said.

Saturday would have been Markoff's first wedding anniversary, but his nuptials were canceled after his arrest.

Markoff, a former Boston University student, pleaded not guilty in the fatal shooting of Julissa Brisman, of New York City, and the armed robbery of a Las Vegas woman. Both crimes happened at Boston hotels within the span of four days in April 2009. Rhode Island prosecutors also accused him of attacking a stripper that week.

His trial in the Massachusetts cases was expected in March.

Markoff's lawyer, John Salsberg, said he was shocked and saddened about his client's death. He would not comment further.

Markoff had met the women through advertisements for erotic services posted on Craigslist, a classified advertising Web site, prosecutors said.

The Boston Police Department crime lab identified two blood stains taken from swabs

on a handgun that was seized during a search of Markoff's apartment in Quincy, Mass., said prosecutors, who alleged Markoff used the weapon to bludgeon Brisman before she was shot three times at close range.

Investigators also found several other items in the apartment, including four pairs of women's underwear wrapped inside socks and hidden in a box spring, authorities said.

A lawyer said Brisman's family was "shocked and dismayed" to hear of Markoff's death.

"Their grief for Julissa is as fresh today as the day over a year ago when Markoff took Julissa away from them," Boston attorney Djuna Perkins said in an e-mail. "The long-awaited criminal prosecution was their only opportunity to confront him, and now he has taken that away as well."



Markoff

ACROSS THE NATION

Tea party activists rally on Arizona-Mexico border

HEREFORD, Ariz. (AP)—Tea party groups converged on a remote section of the U.S.-Mexico border on Sunday to show support for Arizona's controversial immigration law. More than 400 people gathered about 70 miles west of Nogales on a private ranch where the steel posts of the Arizona-Mexico border wall are set closely together to prevent people from crossing the border. Demonstrators attached hundreds of U.S. flags with messages about curbing illegal immigration to the 15-foot posts, and chanted "U-S-A" when spectators gathered on the Mexico side of the border. One of the messages posted on the border wall read, "Mister President ... Secure This Border For America." A federal judge has put on hold the most contentious provisions of the law, including a section that would require officers to check a person's immigration status while enforcing other laws if they have "reasonable suspicion" that the person was in the country illegally.

Slain Okla. couple's family hopes fugitives caught

SANTA ROSA, N.M. (AP)—Lost in the Bonnie and Clyde tale of Arizona fugitives on the run for two weeks is the grisly slaying of an Oklahoma couple whose bodies were found in a burned-out travel trailer on a remote ranch in eastern New Mexico. Police have linked the deaths of Gary and Linda Haas last week to the inmates and the woman who helped

them escape, but they are keeping a tight lid on what happened as the couple traveled to an annual camping trip with friends in Colorado. Family and friends say they have no idea how the Haases' paths would have crossed with escaped convicts John McCluskey and Tracy Province and their accomplice, Casslyn Welch. Blood inside the couple's pickup—found days later in Albuquerque—makes the family certain of one thing: The 61-year-olds put up a fight.

Charges dropped in NY slayings; no new arrest

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—A prosecutor dropped charges Sunday against a parolee initially accused of killing four people and wounding four others outside a downtown restaurant and said the real shooter appeared on surveillance tape. Erie County District Attorney Frank Sedita III asked a judge to dismiss four murder counts against Keith Johnson in light of new evidence. "We can see the race, gender, the height, build, the clothing of the perpetrator," Sedita said after City Court Judge Patrick Carney granted the request. "You can see many of the perpetrator's actions. We have him shooting on video." Still investigators pleaded for witnesses to speak up and warned that the person responsible for the City Grill shootings continued to elude them. "We have somebody running around out there who shot eight people," Sedita said. "We have an armed man who's extremely dangerous loose in our community."

Asia

Asia stops to remember end of World War II

TOKYO (AP)—Asia paused on Sunday to remember Japan's surrender to the allied forces which ended World War II 65 years ago, as the Japanese prime minister apol-

ogized for wreaking suffering on the region and the South Korean president said Tokyo's remorse was a step in the right direction.

From Nanjing—the site of a 1937 massacre by Japanese troops—to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which has drawn outrage from Asia for honoring Class A war criminals, people prayed for the millions who died in war and expressed hopes for peace.

The reckoning with history has taken special meaning this year as it comes amid a global effort to realize a world without nuclear weapons, a resolve backed by President Barack Obama. But there were reminders of lingering tensions.

In Seoul, President Lee Myung-bak, dressed in traditional robes, led a ceremony celebrating the liberation of the Korean peninsula from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule with the Aug. 15 surrender.

He also urged North Korea to abandon military provocations and make a "courageous change" toward peace. Relations with North Korea have nose-dived after the March sinking of a South Korean warship and Pyongyang's firing last week of a barrage of artillery into South Korean waters.

In Tokyo, at a ceremony for the war dead, Prime Minister Naoto Kan reiterated his apology to South Korea for wartime



Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko bow deeply in front of a huge bank of chrysanthemums to offer prayers for the war dead at Budokan martial arts hall in Tokyo Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010, marking the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II.

atrocities, and this time offered his regret to all of Asia.

Last week, Kan offered "deep remorse" in an apology issued ahead of the 100th anniversary of the Japanese an-

nexation of the Korean peninsula on Aug. 29, 1910.

"We caused great damage and suffering to many nations during the war, especially to the people of Asia,"

Kan said Sunday before a crowd of about 6,000, including Emperor Akihito, at Budokan hall.

"We feel a deep regret, and we offer our sincere feelings of condolence to those who suffered and their families," Kan said.

Lee said history should not be forgotten, but that Kan's apology last week marked progress.

"I have taken note of Japan's effort, which represents one step forward," Lee said.

"However, there still remain issues that have to be resolved," he said, without elaborating. "The two countries are called upon to take concrete measures to forge a new relationship for another 100 years."

Many older Koreans still harbor resentment against Japan over the colonization. Hundreds of thousands of Koreans were forced to fight as front-line soldiers, work in slave-labor conditions or serve as prostitutes called "comfort women" in brothels operated by the military.

Later Sunday, about 50 women rallied in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, chanting slogans and demanding compensation for former comfort women and other Korean victims of colonial rule.

Reflecting a common sentiment among Koreans, activist Lee Kang-sil criticized Japan's apology as "lacking in action."

Ousted RP president briefly hospitalized

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Ousted Philippine President Joseph Estrada was briefly hospitalized Sunday because of a bleeding nose but was declared well by doctors after treatment, his son said.

Estrada, 73, was discharged from a suburban Manila hospital after doctors treated a scratch in his nasal passage-way and performed tests to make sure it was nothing serious, his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said.

The former leader and action movie star last week suffered from nose bleeding, which recurred Sunday, prompting his wife and son to take him to a hospital, he said.

The former leader has undergone surgery in the past to repair torn ligaments in both



Estrada

knees and treat a cataract in his left eye but has had no serious health ailments in recent years, his spokeswoman Margaux Salcedo said.

After finishing second to President Benigno Aquino III in May 10 presidential elections, Estrada said he planned to retire from politics and his first love, the movies, but would continue to help his legions of poor followers, who voted him into power in 1998.

Estrada stepped down amid massive anti-corruption protests in 2001 after serving only half of his six-year term. He was convicted of economic plunder in 2007 but was immediately pardoned by his successor and political nemesis, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India prime minister appeals to Kashmir protesters

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's prime minister appealed Sunday to the people of Indian-controlled Kashmir to end violent protests and said his government is ready to hold talks to resolve their long-standing problems. "The years of violence should now end. Such violence will not benefit anyone," Manmohan Singh said in a speech marking India's Independence Day. "We are ready to talk to every person or group which abjures violence." Indian-administered Kashmir has been rocked by near-daily protests and clashes with security forces, leading to the deaths of at least 57 people over the last two months. The protesters have set official buildings and vehicles ablaze and government forces have used guns and tear gas in an effort to contain the unrest. Singh insisted that "Kashmir is an integral part of India," adding that "within this framework, we are ready to move forward in any talks."

Religious minorities in Indonesia push back

BEKASI, Indonesia (AP)—Tired of government inaction, Christians and other religious minorities in Indonesia are pushing back against rising violence by Islamic hard-liners. Christians were warned last week against worshipping on a field that houses a shuttered church in the industrial city of

Bekasi, but 20 members of the congregation showed up anyway, opening their service with a hymn. The act of defiance enraged 300 Islamic hard-liners, many of whom hurled shoes and chanted death threats before pushing past a row of riot police, chasing down members of the group and beating some with sticks. "It's nonsense," said Yudi Tambunan of the Batak Christian Protestant Church, vowing to return every Sunday until their request for a house of worship, made more than two years ago, is approved.

Afghanistan: NATO strike kills 2 fleeing militants

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—NATO forces killed two insurgents who attacked a police station in northern Afghanistan by hitting their truck with an airstrike as they fled the area, the coalition said Sunday. Three pickup trucks full of gunmen launched an attack on the main police station in Kunduz province's Aliabad district on Saturday afternoon, said Deputy Provincial Police Chief Abdul Rahman Aqtash. "They started a gunbattle that lasted for about one and half hours," Aqtash said, with both police reinforcements and NATO air support called in. One police officer was killed in the fighting, he said. NATO said in a statement no one was killed or injured in the gunfight. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the discrepancy.

UN chief: Never seen anything like Pakistan floods

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Sunday he has never seen anything like the flood disaster in Pakistan after surveying the devastation and urged foreign donors to speed up assistance to the 20 million people affected.

Ban's comments reflect the concern of the international

community about the unfolding disaster in Pakistan, which is battling al-Qaida and Taliban militants, has a weak and unpopular government, and an anemic economy propped up by international assistance.

"This has been a heart-wrenching day for me," Ban said after flying over the hard-hit areas with President Asif Ali

Zardari. "I will never forget the destruction and suffering I have witnessed today. In the past I have witnessed many natural disasters around the world, but nothing like this."

Ban visited Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis devastated the country in May 2008, killing an estimated 138,000 people. He also flew to China's Sichuan province just days after an earthquake killed nearly 90,000 people in March 2008.

The floods that began more than two weeks ago in Pakistan's mountainous northwest have now hit about one-quarter of the country, especially its agricultural heartland. While the death toll of 1,500 is relatively small, the scale of the flooding and number of people whose lives have been disrupted is staggering.

The world body has appealed for an initial \$460 million to provide relief, but only 20 percent has been given.

Once the floods recede, billions more will be needed for reconstruction and getting people back to work in the already-poor nation of 170 million people. The International Monetary Fund has warned the floods

could dent economic growth and fuel inflation.

"Waves of flood must be met with waves of support from the world," said Ban. "I'm here to urge the world to step up assistance," he said.

President Zardari has been criticized for his response to the disaster, especially for going ahead with a state visit to Europe just as the crisis was unfolding. Zardari has visited victims twice since returning, but images of him at a family owned chateau while in France are likely to hurt him for months to come.

In his first comments to the media since returning, he defended the government.

"The government has responded very responsibly," he said, saying the army, the police, the navy and officials were all working to relieve the suffering. "I would appeal to the press to understand the magnitude of the disaster."

Zardari said it would take up to two years for the country to recover.

Ban said visa restrictions had been eased for humanitarian workers and they now could get visas on arrival at Pakistan airports.

Pakistan's deluge

The floods in Pakistan — the country's worst humanitarian crisis according to relief agencies — have affected 14 million people and left at least 1,600 dead. How the floods compare to other natural disasters:

Worst disasters in Pakistan

Top 10 since 1935

	Deaths
1935 Quetta earthquake	60,000
1945 Balochistan earthquake, which triggered a tsunami	4,000
1950 Floods; left about 900,000 people homeless	2,900
1970 East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) cyclone; deadliest recorded tropical cyclone	500,000
1974 Kohistan earthquake; affected nearly 100,000 people	5,300
2000 Drought; at least 1.2 million people affected	100+
2005 Kashmir quake; made 3.3 million homeless	73,000
2007 Cyclone Yemyin; about 1.5 million people affected	730
2010 Landslide caused Hunza River to dam, forcing 20,000 people from their homes	20
2010 Floods	1,600*

Deadliest floods of the decade

Floods worldwide that caused the highest fatalities, 2000-2010

Haiti, 2004	2,665
Pakistan, 2010	1,600*
India, 2005	1,200
Bangladesh, 2007	1,110
India, 2007	1,103
India, 2008	1,063
India, 2009	992
Algeria, 2001	921
India, 2004	900
India, 2000	884

*As of Aug. 13

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Source: IRIN, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Center of Research of Epidemiology of Disasters
Graphic: Pat Carr

World

Israel: No conditions for talks with Palestinians

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Israel will not accept conditions for resuming direct negotiations with the Palestinians, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and top Cabinet ministers affirmed in a meeting late Sunday, reflecting a hard line just as invitations to the talks appeared to be near.

The Palestinians want the framework and agenda of negotiations worked out ahead of time.

Under an emerging compromise, the so-called Quartet of Mideast mediators—the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia—was expected to issue an invitation for direct talks that would list underlying principles and a time frame.

However, Netanyahu and his inner circle fear that a Quartet statement would be a “fig leaf for Palestinian preconditions,” said an official in Netanyahu’s office who spoke on condition of anonymity because no government statement was made.

In a meeting late Sunday, the prime minister and his top ministers decided to hold out for a separate invitation from the United States without preconditions, the official said.

It was not clear whether the U.S. plans to issue such a sep-



An Israeli Jewish man walks next to a concrete wall in the Jewish neighborhood of Gilo in Jerusalem, Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010.

arate invitation. The Obama administration has been pushing for a speedy resumption of negotiations that broke down in December 2008.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is wary of entering open-ended talks with Netanyahu, who has retreated from some of the concessions offered

by his predecessors. Abbas wants Israel to accept the principle of Palestinian statehood in the lands Israel occupied in the 1967 Mideast war with minor modifications, and wants all Jewish settlement building to stop during negotiations.

The Israeli official said the leadership reinforced its long-

held position that those are unacceptable preconditions.

Late Sunday, U.S. envoy David Hale met with Abbas at his headquarters in Ramallah. Abbas aides said before the meeting that Hale was discussing the wording of a possible Quartet statement with Abbas.

Afterward, Abbas aide Nabil

Abu Rdenah said consultations with the U.S. and other Quartet members would continue, but that some progress has been made. He would not elaborate.

In a sign of a calming atmosphere, Israeli army cranes on Sunday began removing a concrete barrier that shielded a Jewish neighborhood bordering the

West Bank from gunfire.

The Israeli military erected the 600-yard (meter) concrete barrier nine years ago on the outskirts of the Gilo neighborhood in southern Jerusalem because of repeated Palestinian shootings from the West Bank town of Beit Jalla.

The barrier is being taken down over the next two weeks because of a reduced security threat and improved coordination between Israeli and West Bank security forces, the Israeli military said.

Gilo, a neighborhood of about 40,000, was a convenient target of gunmen during the second Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, which erupted in 2000. Palestinian militants frequently fired at Israelis, including West Bank motorists and soldiers. Gilo was hit because it lies across a shallow valley from a West Bank town.

Gilo was built on land Israel captured in the 1967 war and annexed to Jerusalem, a step not recognized by the international community.

The uprising gradually ended after Abbas became Palestinian president in January 2005. Israel remains in overall control of the West Bank, while Abbas has restored order in once chaotic areas there.

US Navy says 4 ships robbed off Iraqi coast

BAGHDAD (AP)—Gunmen robbed four commercial ships anchored near the southern oil hub of Basra in a rare attack off the Iraqi coast, the U.S. Navy said Sunday.

Two men armed with AK-47 rifles boarded the American ship Sagamore in the vicinity of an Iraqi oil terminal in the northern Persian Gulf at 4 a.m. on Aug. 8, taking computers, cell phones and money from crew members before fleeing the vessel after about 40 minutes on board, according to Lt. John Fage, a spokesman for the Navy’s Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.

He said three other ships—the Antigua-flagged Armenia, the North Korean Crystal Wave and the Syrian Sana Star—were also robbed under similar circumstances during a two-hour period starting about 2 a.m. the same day.

Fage said he had no other information about the attackers or their nationalities.

Salah Aboud, head of the country’s ports agency, said two Iraqis were arrested after Iraqi naval forces found a boat holding some of the stolen materials during a search of a nearby area.

The seaborne robbery occurred about 20 miles (32 kilometers) off the port of Umm Qasr in an area patrolled jointly by the U.S. Navy and Iraqi sailors. American vessels in the area for routine security operations, including a guided missile destroyer, responded to the attacks, Fage said.

The attack reflects concerns about an increase in crime in Iraq even as political violence ebbs, but Fage played down concerns it signaled a new threat to commercial traffic in the Gulf.

On July 28, a Japanese oil tanker elsewhere in the Gulf was damaged and one crew member was injured in what the United Arab Emirates said was a suicide bombing.

“We do maintain a constant presence. We do maintain a high state of vigilance in conducting security operations with our Iraqi partners,” Fage said in a telephone interview.

Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city, which is located near Umm Qasr, has been relatively quiet since a 2008 military crackdown that ended three years of Shiite militia rule, rampant crime and turmoil. The area and the surrounding province contain about 70 percent of Iraq’s proven oil reserves of 115 billion barrels.

Violence has dropped sharply in Iraq, but Iraqi security forces and civilians continue to face daily attacks.

Threats of int’l BlackBerry bans echo US debate

NEW YORK (AP)—Threats by the governments of India, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to shut down BlackBerry’s corporate e-mail services reflect unease about a technology that the U.S. government also took a while to accept.

The foreign governments are essentially a decade behind in coming to terms with encryption, a technology that’s fundamental to the Internet as

a medium of commerce.

Encrypted communications are scrambled in a complex process to ensure that only the intended recipient can read them, using the proper digital key. This often takes place behind the scenes, without the user needing to do anything. When you submit your credit card number on a shopping site, the communication is encrypted. When you log in to your bank’s site, that con-

nection is encrypted as well.

Most companies use encrypted connections for their corporate e-mails, at least if employees need to access e-mail outside the office through virtual private networks and other secure systems. One of the reasons Research In Motion Ltd. has been so successful with its BlackBerry phones is that it brought that level of security to e-mail-capable phones.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pilgrims evacuated after bomb threat at Lourdes

PARIS (AP)—Thousands of people, many disabled or ailing, were evacuated Sunday from the shrine at Lourdes in southern France after a bomb threat on the Catholic holy day of Assumption. The pilgrims returned after explosives experts scoured the area. Some 30,000 pilgrims were at the site, whose spring water is reputed to have healing powers, when Lourdes police received an anonymous threat late in the morning saying bombs would hit the site Sunday afternoon, said the shrine’s chief spokesman Pierre Adias. In an announcement read in six languages, authorities ordered everyone evacuated just as a midday Mass was supposed to begin. About 900 gravely ill pilgrims, including many on stretchers, were taken to a secure place while explosives experts with sniffer dogs fanned out around the shrine, Lourdes Mayor Jean-Pierre Artiganave said on France-Info radio.

Nigeria: Former VP announces presidential bid

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria’s former vice president Atiku Abubakar, who was accused of bribing a U.S. congressman while in office, announced Sunday he would seek the nomination of the oil-rich country’s ruling party to run for the presidency. Abubakar, 63, would need the People’s Democratic Party to again accept him as a member before contesting the primary, as he ran unsuccessfully as a presidential candidate for an opposition party in 2007. However, his candidacy as a Muslim from northern Nigeria could pressure the party after a Christian from the south became Nigeria’s president earlier this year following the death of its elected Muslim leader. At a news conference Sunday, Abubakar told reporters he came to the decision after talking with family, friends and supporters.

Poisonous smog returns to Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—The poisonous smog that contributed to a higher death rate in Moscow last week returned to Russia’s capital Sunday, officials said. The concentration of carbon monoxide in Moscow air early Sunday was more than five times what is considered normal, said Alexey Popikov of weather monitors Moscomonitoring. In addition, “The level of hydrocarbon emissions—the substances that give the air this unpleasant smell—was 5.5 times higher than the usual Moscow level this morning,” he told The Associated Press. He added, however, that by Monday winds will disperse most the smog. Acrid smoke from forest and peat bog fires blanketed Moscow until early this week, nearly doubling the number of recorded deaths and grounding planes in airports.

Lockerbie families raise new questions over bomber

LONDON (AP)—The regrets of a cancer expert who assessed the only man ever convicted of the 1988 Lockerbie jetliner bombing have intensified the anger felt by victims’ relatives over Scotland’s decision to release the Libyan on compassionate grounds. Professor Karol Sikora and other experts had said Abdel Baset al-Megrahi probably had only three months to live when he was freed from a Scottish jail last August and allowed to return home to Libya. But one year later, Al-Megrahi, who is being treated for prostate cancer, is still alive. Sikora, one of three experts who assessed al-Megrahi’s health for Libyan authorities, was quoted by Britain’s Observer newspaper Sunday as saying he should have been more cautious about the chances of survival. “If I could go back in time, I would have probably been more vague and tried to emphasize the statistical chances and not hard fact,” Sikora was quoted as saying.

Focus

As the United States dropped its atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, 1.6 million Soviet troops launched a surprise attack on the Japanese army occupying eastern Asia. Within days, Emperor Hirohito's million-man army in the region had collapsed.

It was a momentous turn on the Pacific battleground of World War II, yet one that would be largely eclipsed in the history books by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the same week 65 years ago. But in recent years some historians have argued that the Soviet action served as effectively as—or possibly more than—the A-bombs in ending the war.

Now a new history by a professor at University of California, Santa Barbara seeks to reinforce that view, arguing that fear of Soviet invasion persuaded the Japanese to opt for surrender to the Americans, who they believed would treat them more generously than the Soviets.

Japan's forces in northeast Asia first tangled with the Russians in 1939 when the Japanese army tried to invade Mongolia. Their crushing defeat at the battle of Khalkin Gol induced Tokyo to sign a neutrality pact that kept the USSR out of the Pacific war.

Tokyo turned its focus to confronting U.S., British and Dutch forces instead, which led to the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

But following the German surrender on May 8, 1945, and having suffered a string of defeats in the Philippines, Okinawa and Iwo Jima, Japan turned to Moscow to mediate an end to the Pacific war.

However, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin had already secretly promised Washington and London that he would attack Japan within three months of Germany's defeat. He thus ignored Tokyo's plea, and mobilized more than a million troops along Manchuria's border.

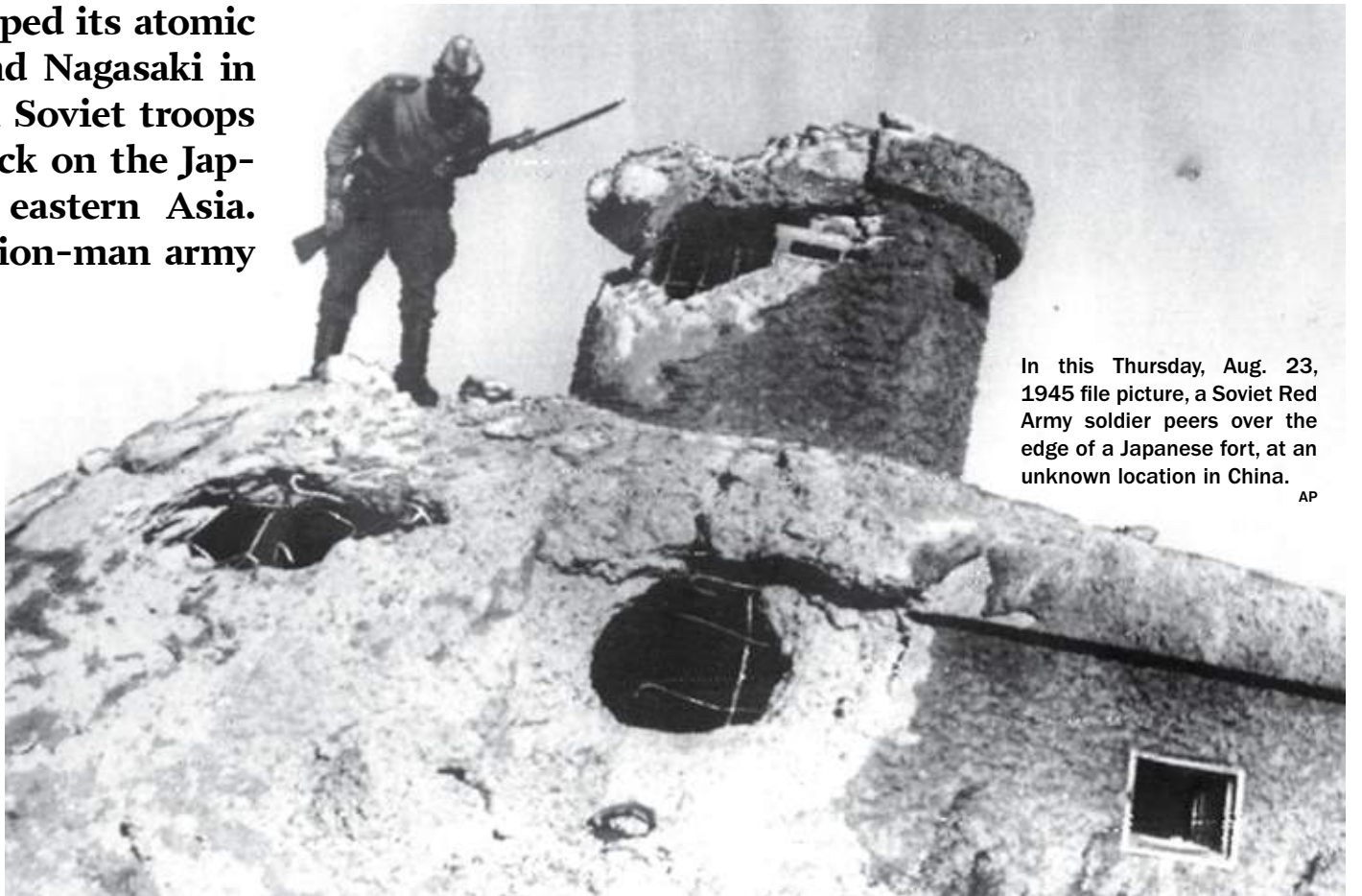
Operation August Storm was launched Aug. 9, 1945, as the Nagasaki bomb was dropped, and would claim the lives of 84,000 Japanese and 12,000 Soviet soldiers in two weeks of fighting. The Soviets ended up just 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Japan's main northern island, Hokkaido.

"The Soviet entry into the war played a much greater role than the atomic bombs in inducing Japan to surrender because it dashed any hope that Japan could terminate the war through Moscow's mediation," said Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, whose recently published *Racing the Enemy* examines the conclusion of the Pacific war and is based on recently declassified Soviet archives as

well as U.S. and Japanese documents.

"The emperor and the peace party [within the government] hastened to end the war expecting that the Americans would deal with Japan more generously than the Soviets," Hasegawa, a Russian-speaking American scholar, said in an interview.

Despite the death toll from the atomic bombings—140,000 in Hiroshima, 80,000 in Nagasaki the Imperial Military Command believed it could hold out against an Allied invasion if it retained control of Manchuria and Korea, which provided Japan with the resources for war,



In this Thursday, Aug. 23, 1945 file picture, a Soviet Red Army soldier peers over the edge of a Japanese fort, at an unknown location in China. AP

Historians rethink key Soviet role in Japan defeat

By **SLOBODAN LEKIC**
Associated Press
Writer

The Soviet entry into the war played a much greater role than the atomic bombs in inducing Japan to surrender because it dashed any hope that Japan could terminate the war through Moscow's mediation.

—Tsuyoshi Hasegawa

according to Hasegawa and Terry Charman, a historian of World War II at London's Imperial War Museum.

"The Soviet attack changed all that," Charman said. "The leadership in Tokyo realized they had no hope now, and in

that sense August Storm did have a greater effect on the Japanese decision to surrender than the dropping of the A-bombs."

In the U.S., the bombings are still widely seen as a decision of last resort against an enemy that appeared determined to fight to the death. President Harry S. Truman and U.S. military leaders believed an invasion of Japan would cost hundreds of thousands of American lives.

American historian Richard B. Frank has argued that as terrible as the atomic bombs were, they saved hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and millions of Japanese troops and civilians who would have perished if the conflict had gone on until 1946.

"In the famous words of Secretary of War Henry Stimson, [the bombs] were the 'least abhorrent choice' of a dreadful array of option facing American leaders," he said in an interview. "Alternatives to the atomic bombs carried no guarantee as to when they would end the war and carried a far higher price in human death and suffering."

Frank, who is writing a three-volume history of the Pacific war, said he continued to disagree with Hasegawa on the relative importance of the Soviet intervention and the A-bombs in forcing the surrender decision.

But he said they agreed that ultimate responsibility for what happened lay with Japan's government and Hirohito, who had decided in June to draft almost the entire population, men and most women, to fight to the death.

"Since no provision had been made to place these people in

uniform, invading Allied troops would have not been able to distinguish combatants from non-combatants, effectively turning each village in Japan into a military target," Frank said.

The impact of the lightning Soviet advance comes through in the words of Japan's wartime prime minister, Kantaro Suzuki, urging his cabinet to surrender.

He is quoted in Hasegawa's book as saying, "If we miss [the chance] today, the Soviet Union will take not only Manchuria, Korea and Sakhalin, but also Hokkaido. We must end the war while we can deal with the United States."

V-J Day, the day Japan ceased fighting, came on Aug. 15 (Aug. 14 in the U.S.), and Japan's formal surrender followed on Sept. 2.

Dominic Lieven, a professor of Russian government at the London School of Economics, said anti-Soviet sentiment in the West tended to minimize Soviet military achievements.

Also, "very few Anglo-Americans saw the Soviet offensive in the Far East with their own eyes, and Soviet archives were not open to Western historians subsequently," he said.

More surprising, even in Russia the campaign was largely ignored. Although the scale of the Soviet victory was unprecedented, 12,000 dead against Japan hardly compared with the life-and-death struggle against Nazi Germany, in which 27 million Soviets died.

"The importance of the operation was huge," said retired Gen. Makhmut Gareyev, president of the Russian Academy of Military Sciences, who took part in the 1945 campaign. "By entering the war with militarist Japan ... the Soviet Union precipitated the end of World War II."



AP PHOTO/FILE

In this Tuesday, July 17, 1945 file picture, President Harry Truman, center, talks with Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, left, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, at the Potsdam Conference in Potsdam, Germany, near Berlin. Historians declare the conference was the start of the Cold War, the division of Germany and Europe into opposing camps.

Overdrive



Restyled Range Rover Sport brings luxury to the woods

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Until its luxury Range Rover model migrated here from England in 1987, Land Rover owners on this side of the pond consisted of a dedicated group of off-roaders who tolerated the original, ultra-Spartan vehicle's lousy road manners as a way to get to the back country.

But how serious were they? A Rover-dedicated website in Canada made this observation about a change to the Rover lineup in 1972: "To the horror of many owners, the grille was changed from steel mesh to plastic, which meant it could no longer be used as a campfire grill."

You'd think Land Rover's manufacturers would have given up the cost and effort of engineering the Range Rover, which can cost as much as \$100,000, to go off-road, but they didn't. The Range Rover is every bit as capable of climbing over fallen trees, steering around boulders and slogging through mud as the country-cousin Land Rovers we used to see on "Wild Kingdom."

Years ago, a Rover executive acknowledged that Range Rover owners may never go off the road, but they like owning vehicles that can if they ever wanted to—just like Chevrolet Corvette owners will never drive 150 mph, but they like seeing that number on the speedometer's dial.

So despite the fact that the 2010 Range Rover Sport Supercharged has a 510-horsepower V-8 engine, it also has yards of leather and anigre wood trim (anigre is a tropical African hardwood, and yes, I had to look it up) and plus every electronic safety and luxury feature you'd want. It also has a sophisticated four-wheel-drive system, ultra-thick rubber door seals—to keep the water out, should you decide to ford a stream—and an air suspension that raises and lowers depending on the terrain.

The Sport, introduced in 2006, was based not on the larger, flagship Range Rover, but the mid-level LR3, which is sort of boxy and more utilitarian model. The LR3 price starts at about \$47,000, and the regular Range Rover starts at about \$78,000. By dressing

NUTS & BOLTS

2010 Land Rover Range Rover Sport Supercharged
Base price: \$73,345
Price as tested: \$78,795
EPA rating: 12 mpg city, 17 mpg highway
Engine: 5.0-liter, 510-horsepower supercharged V-8
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
Length: 188.3 inches
Wheelbase: 108 inches
Sum: Stunning off-road capability in a vehicle that may never leave the pavement.

up the LR3 to Range Rover standards, the company thought it could build a luxury Range Rover that would start at about \$60,000. Many wondered if it would look and feel like a dressed-up LR3, but it doesn't—in fact, the Range Rover Sport is so nice I'm not sure why I'd spend the extra money on the flagship model.

That's especially true for 2010, when

the Sport received its first styling update, plus a new engine—a 5.0-liter V-8 with 375 horsepower, or a supercharged version of that engine with 510 horsepower, which is the test vehicle. With the six-speed automatic transmission, acceleration is brisk, but since the Sport Supercharged weighs in at nearly three tons, it doesn't really feel like there's 500-plus horses under the hood. Fuel mileage is EPA-rated at 12 mpg city, 17 mpg highway—premium, of course.

On the road, the Sport gives an ultra-smooth, very quiet ride, and it handles with more agility than its weight or high center of gravity would suggest. Off-road, it's a mountain goat, but at an as-tested price of \$78,795, few owners will learn that for themselves. The cabin is roomy for four people, a little cramped in the rear with five. The 2010 redesign eliminated half the switches on the dashboard and console, but some of the controls are still confusing, especially the sound system.

In December of 2007, Ford sold Land Rover and Jaguar to Tata Motors, an Indian manufacturer, and so far, Tata has proven to be a splendid steward to both brands. The Range Rover Sport continues to evolve and improve, and serve perhaps the oddest market in the industry: On-road customers who want an off-road sport-ute. They should really try to get it dirty once in a while.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Software 'anomaly' may send stability sensor awry

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2007 GMC Envoy. In the winter the "service StabiliTrak" light comes up on the dash. In summer it does not come up often, maybe once or twice all summer, but in winter it comes on once or twice a week. To reset the light you have to turn off the ignition and restart the Envoy. I had a scan done to check for codes, but there weren't any.

The problem occurs when the vehicle rocks coming out of a driveway or when making a sharp turn to the left while backing up. Can you shed some light on this problem?

ANSWER: You may be in luck. My Alldata automotive database pulled up service bulletin 08-05-25-005, dated October 2008, that describes a dynamic condition similar to what you're experiencing that can trigger the light.

This may be caused by "a software anomaly within the electronic brake control module (EBCM) that allowed

the yaw offset to be falsely learned." It means the system has learned to recognize a sudden change in the "yaw" axis as a condition that requires engaging the stability control system.

(Yaw is the change in the car's front-to-back axis relative to the direction of travel.)

In this case, the system thinks the vehicle is beginning to spin or slide and tries to stabilize the vehicle.

The bulletin calls for the dealer to reprogram the module with updated software. If the vehicle is still covered by warranty, so would this update.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Q: BMW says it doesn't recommend rotating tires on my 2007 530xi, even though they are all the same size. I followed its recommendations, and when I had to get new tires, I wound up with worn-out tires in the rear and two front tires that had about 5,000 miles left on them.

I also have a 2001 Audi Allroad that has four tires the same size, which I rotate. As a result, I wind up getting a uniform wear rate and

possibly six more months of wear.

What do you think about the difference in tire rotation practice between Audi and BMW?

A: When you rotate the Audi's tires, do you have to reset or reprogram a tire pressure monitoring system? It was an option on your Audi but is now standard equipment. If you don't, that may explain most of the "don't rotate tires" advice on the BMW. If you were to rotate the tires on the BMW, you would have to reset the tire pressure monitoring system to recognize the change in location for each tire pressure sensor. Check your owner's manual for instructions.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Q: I'm trying to locate the fuel-pressure regulator to fix a hard-starting 1998 Chevy C2500 pickup truck with a 5.7-liter Vortec engine. The engine starts quickly when cold but cranks a while to restart when hot. It occasionally backfires through the intake manifold. The fuel pump was replaced and an induction cleaning done at 75,700 miles. Current mile-

age is 93,500. Am I chasing after the wrong solution?

A: A simple fuel-pressure leakdown test would identify a leaking fuel pressure regulator or CSFI (central sequential fuel injection) injector. Fuel pressure should be 60 to 66 pounds per square inch, and it should hold that without dropping rapidly once the key is turned off and the fuel pump stops running.

The regulator and "spider" CSFI assembly are under the upper intake manifold, which must be removed to gain access. If there's no problem with fuel pressure, a compression or cylinder balance test might identify a leaking intake valve.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

How to know when clutch's end is near

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Is there a way to know when your clutch is about to go out? A friend drove my car and told me he thought mine was about gone.

Can you also explain what it takes to have the clutch replaced? How long are they supposed to last?—Jerry Perez

ANSWER: If your clutch is on its last legs, there may be noticeable symptoms.

Let's look at the two significant ways a clutch can fail, and see where yours might fit in. A clutch can either slip or fail to disengage.

A slipping clutch is typically caused by a worn clutch disc, the part containing friction material. As the disc wears thin, one may notice the clutch engages (begins to move the car from a stop) as the clutch pedal reaches the top of its travel, rather than about the halfway point or lower. The clutch may also slip on a steep hill—the engine will speed up more than it should for a given vehicle speed. A failed pressure plate can also cause clutch slippage.

Clutch chatter is a less critical engagement issue. An overheated clutch, or one contaminated with fluid, may chatter during engagement. This is annoying, but unless severe, isn't a significant problem. Being careful engaging the clutch, particularly when starting the vehicle on steep hills is the best way to avoid this fault from occurring. The more briskly a clutch is engaged (within reason), the less wear and heat will be produced.

The other common clutch failure is improper disengagement. The noticeable symptom here is difficulty engaging gears when stopped, or gear-clashing when shifting. This can be caused by a failed pressure plate—the part that clamps and releases the clutch disc to the engine's flywheel—or a linkage problem. Most modern clutches use a hydraulic system to transfer motion from the clutch pedal to the clutch mechanism. A leak in a master or slave cylinder, or in a line connecting them, could result in a loss of fluid and improper release function. Older vehicle used cable or lever linkages, which can sometimes bind, wear, or break.

An additional disengagement problem may be a worn or noisy throw-out (release) bearing. This part transfers the push of the clutch fork to the rapidly spinning pressure-plate fingers. The clutch may grab and release fine, and will continue to do so until the bearing finally comes apart. In rare cases, a problem could also develop with the clutch fork and/or fork pivot. These parts transfer motion from the external linkage to the throw-out bearing.

Renewing a clutch involves removing and reinstalling the transmission and the clutch components. A replacement clutch kit typically contains a clutch disc, pressure plate and throw-out bearing. It's a good idea also to resurface the flywheel, as its friction surface may have become distorted. Depending on the vehicle, clutch replacement can take five hours to 15 hours, plus perhaps \$200 to \$800 for parts.

Clutch life really depends on driving habits and terrain. With gentle use, a clutch may last 150,000 miles, while a vehicle driven daily in San Francisco, or by a teenager, may expire at 30,000 miles.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

By ADAM JADHAV
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

In college, my buddies and I took pride in getting the most beer possible into our glasses. We'd heckle any bartender who filled the top inch or two with foam.

At parties, we filled our red plastic cups to the brim with Bud or Miller Lite or Icehouse from the keg tap. If the beer came in a bottle or can, we drank it that way.

No need for foam, we always said.

Man, were we dumb.

Beer experts, fans and brewers know better. Foam, or head as it's called, is important, even necessary.

Why? "Aroma! Aroma! Aroma!" says Dan Kopman, co-founder of the Schlafly brewery in St. Louis.

But I hear all sorts of excuses for the no-foam argument: I want to fit all 12 ounces in the glass. I don't want it to overflow. I don't want bubbles near my nose on the first few sips.

Ba humbug!

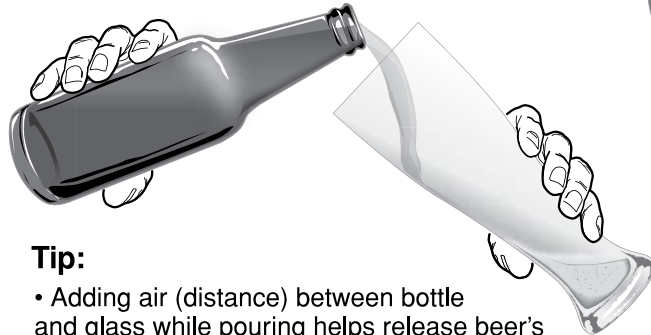
Much of beer's flavor is contained in the aroma, which is released by the agitation of a good strong pour. Our tongues are far more limited than our noses in

Bottoms up

Enjoying beer from a glass will reveal its color and release the beer's volatiles (aromas) and flavor. How to pour a bottled beer:

1 Pour boldly

Hold clean glass at 45-degree angle, aiming at middle of the glass' side



Tip:

- Adding air (distance) between bottle and glass while pouring helps release beer's carbonation and forms the foam head
- A pilsner glass (above) shows the clarity of amber-colored beers, and the tapered shape helps hold the beer's head

Source: Beer Advocate Graphic: Lee Hulteng

2 Rotate glass

Bring glass to 90 degrees at halfway point, now pouring in middle of the glass

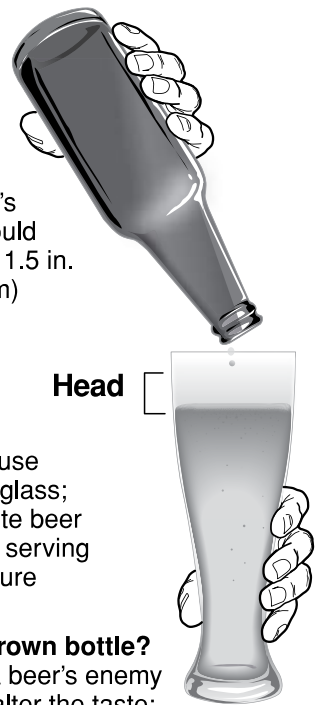
Tip:

- Gradually increase distance between bottle and glass to ensure a good head on the beer
- A good healthy head of foam helps trap the beer's volatiles

To 90 degrees

3 Finish

The beer's head should be 0.5 to 1.5 in. (1 to 4 cm)



Tip:

- Do not use a chilled glass; it will dilute beer and alter serving temperature

Why a brown bottle? Light is a beer's enemy and will alter the taste; "skunky" beer is often a sign of light-struck beer

© 2008 MCT

Pour that beer in a glass, folks

sensory perception. No one would suggest that you should smell beer and not drink it. Don't commit the opposite sin: drinking without ever smelling.

"Tasting is a lot about the aroma. You'll pick up the aroma first and that'll create the true impression and really tell you so much more about the beer you're about to drink," says Florian Kuplent, a brewmaster at Anheuser-Busch and the Michelob Brewing Co.

Don't believe it? Go to the store and pick up a six-pack of a good, aromatic beer—maybe an American pale ale or a big Belgian ale. Take a sip of one from the bottle. Then pour one beer into a glass and compare.

You'll rarely drink from the bottle or can again.

Beer experts recommend an inch or two of head. Highly carbonated wheats and some higher-hop beers will naturally have even more.

A big, frothy head helps release aro-

Pouring beer: Patience can improve your brew

By JOSH NOEL
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Drinking your beer from a bottle might seem cool, but you really should have that pale ale or cream stout from a glass. It shows color. It opens flavor. It tantalizes your nostrils. With guidance from Randy Mosher, author of *Tasting Beer*:

An Insider's Guide to the World's Greatest Drink, here's how to do it right.

First, the oft-practiced gentle pour on the side is wrong, wrong, wrong. The goal is to get head on your beer, but not too much (about two fingers worth should do it). Mosher prefers a rounded glass for his beer. Whether you use that or a pint glass, aim for a semi-hard

pour into the bottom of the glass. Let the beer flower up and give the head a moment to settle. This knocks gas out of the beer that can obscure flavor. If there are bubbles on the side—a sign of a dirty or scratched glass—give the glass a hard tap on its bottom to release them. Give it a light swirl, wine style, take a deep whiff ... and enjoy.

smells bad, you might want to reconsider what you're drinking.

And how to get that perfect head when you pour? Don't tilt your glass!

Kuplent and others recommend holding the glass flat and pouring down the middle. Vary your pouring speed to determine how much agitation, and therefore head, results. Pour against the side a little more as the head fills up.

"Trickling down the side is for sissies

and will result in a too-gassy beer with little aroma and poor, quickly dissipating head," writes Randy Mosher in his wonderful book *Tasting Beer* (Storey Publishing, 2009, \$16.95).

There is a notable exception: bottle-conditioned beers, ones where the yeast continues to work its magic in the bottle and eventually settles to the bottom. These beers—many of them Belgian—must be poured slowly, probably down the side,

to avoid dumping all that yeast into the glass, says Paul Hayden, manager of the Wine and Cheese Place in St. Louis.

Finally, consider your glassware. Beeradvocate.com has some fine lessons on this. So does Mosher's book. A few key points:

■ The standard pint glass does nothing special for beer.

■ For hoppy lagers, try a narrow pilsner glass that will help hold the head.

■ For aromatic beers, including hoppy ales and big stouts, try a snifter or tulip glass to concentrate the smells.

■ Use a larger narrow glass for wheats to contain a larger head of foam.

Also, always make sure that glass is "beer clean," Owens says. Soap spots or oil from fingers will cause the head to fall apart, costing you aroma. If a bartender hands you a glass that's even slightly spotted, ask for a clean one.

And ask for a room-temperature glass. This is my pet peeve, as frosting or chilling often leaves residue on the glass and generally keeps the beer too cold. With apologies to Faye Dunaway and "Mommie Dearest," NO FROSTED GLASSES, EVER!

Daniel Craig wants another shot at Bond

» 'It's out of my hands. ...If I get the call, I'll be there'

By GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Daniel Craig is in Western wear these days on the New Mexico set of "Cowboys and Aliens," but he can't help but wonder whether he will ever don James Bond's tuxedo again. "It's out of my hands," the British actor said during a break from shooting. "I'm ready and willing, and if I get the call, I'll be there."

It's not clear when—or even if—that call will come. The fiscal crisis at MGM has suspended the cinema spy's license to kill and, as Los Angeles Times writer Steven Zeitchik has reported, there may also be some discord among the current creative team about the direction of the next film, which would be the 23rd in the storied franchise.

Craig took on the role of 007 with "Casino Royale" in 2006 and followed it with "Quantum of Solace" in 2008. The two films pulled in \$1.1 billion in worldwide box office and, more than that, brought a new grim energy to the Bond character on screen. Craig, who is plainly proud of his work in the iconic role, is eager to tie up the loose ends in the plot with a third film, but he seemed to have more questions than answers about the topic.

"You probably know more than I do," Craig said. "It is what it is. Unless MGM can sort themselves out, we can't make a movie. It's hard to talk about things that aren't happening. There will be more to say when things are happening. I'm really keen to get going, it's as simple as that. And I'm hoping that, in a while, we will."

Venerable but vulnerable MGM is

buckling beneath \$4 billion in debt, a situation that has already wrought havoc with the plans for a two-film adaptation of "The Hobbit." Director Guillermo del Toro walked away from "Hobbit" in frustration. Will MGM's limbo also lead to key defections or lost opportunities with Bond? One major issue is Craig's tight schedule.

The in-demand actor co-stars with Harrison Ford, Olivia Wilde and Sam Rockwell in the Jon Favreau-directed "Cowboys and Aliens," and everyone involved is approaching it as a two-film affair. Craig's calendar will be tied up promoting the summer 2011 release. There's also "The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn," the December 2011 release from Steven Spielberg that stars Craig and opens a planned trilogy.

Later this year, Craig begins filming



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Daniel Craig poses for photos backstage during the 81st annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, Sunday, February 22, 2009.

"The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," David Fincher's take on the Swedish-language film and the bookshelf best-seller; yes, that film that has sequel

written all over it, if it finds the audience that's expected. Some of these franchises may fizzle—Craig starred, for instance, in "The Golden Compass" but the plan to make that a film series went south.

Craig turned 42 in March, but his world-weary version of Bond may benefit from a few more wrinkles. The question is whether an especially long delay might prompt the franchise decision-makers to go for a youth movement and a new story cycle, much as Sony is doing with a total restart of its "Spider-Man" franchise.

Craig, though, clearly wants to finish what he's started, no matter what the challenges.

"I felt as if we were just getting going and that we'd get the chance to make a couple more," the actor said. "I'd like to fulfill the circle with the story. But, yes, there is nothing really to say until whoever gets that house (at MGM) in order. There's no chance of getting it made until those things are taken care of."

'Expendables' seizes top box office spot with \$35M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone has proven that he's not quite expendable yet at the box office.

Stallone and his pumped-up pals lifted Lionsgate's 1980s-style action romp "The Expendables" to a No. 1 debut with \$35 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

While the macho "Expendables" lured male audiences, Julia Roberts delivered a crowd-pleaser for women with Sony's "Eat Pray Love," which opened at No. 2 with \$23.7 million.

The previous weekend's top movie, Sony's cop comedy "The Other Guys," slipped to third place with \$18 million, raising its 10-day total to \$70.5 million. The Warner Bros. blockbuster "Inception" was fourth with \$11.4 million, lifting its total to \$248.6 million.

Opening in fifth place with



U.S. actor Sylvester Stallone, centre, puts his arms around British actor Jason Statham, left, as they pose with Swedish actor Dolph Lundgren, right, for photographs during a photo call for the film *The Expendables*, at central London hotel, Monday, Aug. 9, 2010.

mercenaries aiming to overthrow a dictator.

It's a throwback to the brawn and body counts of 1980s and '90s action, a genre whose top three stars were Stallone, Willis and Schwarzenegger. The cast also includes such actors with 1980s roots as Mickey Rourke, Dolph Lundgren and Roberts' brother, Eric Roberts, as well as wrestler Steve Austin, ultimate fighter Randy Couture and former NFL player Terry Crews.

"By combining all that star power, they really had a strong debut," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "Maybe star power doesn't work with just one star, but when you throw in a dozen, it really looked fun. In the action world, these guys are big names."

Adapted from Elizabeth Gilbert's best-selling memoir, "Eat

than "Eat Pray Love."

"We figured anybody going to see 'Eat Pray Love' would not want to see 'Expendables,' and vice versa," said David Spitz, head of distribution at Lionsgate.

Still, the hunky-men factor brought in a solid female crowd for "The Expendables," whose audience was 39 percent women, a bigger ratio than many male-driven action flicks.

Women made up 72 percent of the audience for "Eat Pray Love." Older women dominated the crowds, with 56 percent of the audience over 35.

"We definitely had the women and they definitely had the men," Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony, said of the split between "Eat Pray Love" and "The Expendables."

Sony is counting on a long shelf life for "Eat Pray Love" because of its appeal to women,

\$10.5 million was Universal's graphic-novel adaptation "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World," starring Michael Cera as a slacker caught up in duels to the death with his new girlfriend's seven evil ex-boyfriends.

"The Expendables" continued a box-office uptick for Stallone, who has had a career resurgence in recent years revisiting his past with fresh sequels to his "Rocky" and "Rambo" franchises.

The movie features such action stars as Jet Li and Jason Statham—along with cameos from Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger—in a tale of

- 1 "The Expendables," \$35 million.
- 2 "Eat Pray Love," \$23.7 million.
- 3 "The Other Guys," \$18 million.
- 4 "Inception," \$11.4 million.
- 5 "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World," \$10.5 million.
- 6 "Despicable Me," \$6.8 million.
- 7 "Step Up 3D," \$6.6 million.
- 8 "Salt," \$6.4 million.
- 9 "Dinner for Schmucks," \$6.3 million.
- 10 "Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore," \$4.1 million.

Pray Love" stars Julia Roberts as a woman traveling the world in search of enlightenment after her divorce.

Lionsgate deliberately chose this weekend to open "The Expendables" since it would be aiming for a different audience

who are less likely than males to rush out to see a movie over opening weekend.

"This is the type of picture that really will hang in there. I would be very surprised if the picture doesn't play right into the fall," Bruer said.

Fans fill Graceland for vigil marking Elvis' death



Elvis Presley impersonator Mark Rio, right, of Brazil, poses for a photo with Brandon Bird, 8, of Manhattan, Ill., on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010 in Memphis, Tenn.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Shadows danced on the faces of Elvis Presley fans as they carried candles and walked silently by his grave during a Sunday night vigil at Graceland, marking the 33rd anniversary of the American icon's death.

Thousands of Elvis admirers from around the world flocked to Graceland to attend the annual candlelight vigil and procession, which runs into

the morning hours. Presley died at age 42 at his Graceland mansion on Aug. 16, 1977. Memorials started the following year.

Elvis ballads like "If I Can Dream" and "Fools Rush In" played as participants solemnly filed in through the gates. Flowers and photos lined the entrance to the grave site, which also is the resting place of Presley's father Vernon, his mother Gladys and grandmother Minnie Mae. Some people wiped tears from their faces as they walked past.

Thomas Hollis, 52, said he thought of his wife, who passed away in May from cancer. It's his sixth Elvis vigil, but the first without his wife. Sunday was the couple's 13th wedding anniversary.

Hollis' granddaughter carried a candle for his wife.

"This vigil is kind of like for Elvis, and kind of like for her, too," said Hollis, of Louisville, Ky. "It's rough this year ... I've been through down times myself for a while, but I listen to his music and it keeps me going."

The night-time procession is the highlight of a weeklong series of fan-club meetings, film showings and Elvis tribute artist contests. Elvis purchased the 13-acre Graceland property in 1957 for a song—just a bit more than \$100,000.

As night fell, fans took residence on Elvis Presley Boulevard, setting up folding chairs in the street after police closed the thoroughfare to traffic. Children wrote messages in purple, yellow and green chalk reading "We Miss Elvis" and "Elvis Lives 2010."

Wim Postmus arrived last week from the town of Maarssen in the Netherlands. He came three years ago for the 30th anniversary vigil but gave up after spending many hours in line without even making it inside the walls.

The 47-year-old Postmus, who said Elvis' music helps him get happy when he's depressed, made the trip despite losing his job in financial administration earlier this year.

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<p>The Expendables</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30 Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20 Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:20</p> <p>Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham War • Rated R</p>	<p>Synopsis</p> <p>Sylvester Stallone gears up for a men-on-a-mission film with the Nu Image/Millennium Films war picture, <i>The Expendables</i>. Jason Statham and Jet Li co-star alongside the brawny filmmaker as a group of mercenaries who undertake a near-impossible operation to overthrow a dictator in South America. Mickey Rourke, Forest Whitaker, and UFC star Randy Couture co-star in the action-packed production.</p>	
	<p>Synopsis</p> <p>A young man (Michael Cera) must fight a girl's (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) seven sinister ex-boyfriends in order to win her hand in this Universal Pictures' adaptation of Bryan Lee O'Malley's Oni Press comic book. Shaun of the Dead's Edgar Wright directs from a script he penned with Michael Bacall. Superhero veterans Chris Evans and Brandon Routh co-star in the action comedy as two of the seven ex-boyfriends.</p>	
<p>Scott Pilgrim Versus The World</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05</p> <p>Michael Cera, Chris Evans Adventure • Rated PG 13</p>		
<p>The Other Guys</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35 Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10 Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:10</p> <p>Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell Comedy • Rated PG 13</p>	<p>Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15</p> <p>Alec Baldwin, Chris O'Donnell Children's, Family • Rated PG</p>	
<p>Salt</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25</p> <p>Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber Thriller • Rated PG 13</p>	<p>Charlie St. Cloud</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30</p> <p>Zac Efron, Kim Basinger Drama • Rated PG 13</p>	
<p>Inception</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 4:00 7:00 9:50 Sunday 4:00 7:00 Mon through Thurs 7:00</p> <p>Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13</p>	<p>Dinner For Schmucks</p> <p>Friday and Saturday 1:00 Sunday 1:00 Mon through Thurs 4:00</p> <p>Steve Carell, Paul Rudd Comedy • Rated PG 13</p>	

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Publicist: Zsa Zsa Gabor in serious condition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor's publicist says the 93-year-old actress is in extremely serious condition after having two blood clots removed at a Los Angeles hospital.

Publicist John Blanchette said Sunday that he had spoken with Gabor's husband Frederic Von Anhalt, who had told him of her condition. Blanchette described the situation as "very sad."

Blanchette says Gabor was in surgery for several hours Saturday for the removal of the clots from her upper body, one of them very close to her heart. Gabor was hospitalized Fri-

day afternoon because she was bleeding and in a lot of pain.

She had broken her hip July 17, had hip replacement surgery and had just returned home from the hospital Wednesday.

Another 'Jersey Shore' cast member arrested in NJ

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—Another MTV "Jersey Shore" cast member has been arrested in the New Jersey town where the show is based.

Seaside Heights police say 24-year-old Ronald "Ronnie" Ortiz-Magro was taken into custody around noon Sunday for outstanding warrants from two other Garden State communities. The warrants involve unpaid parking tickets.

Police say the Bronx, N.Y., resident was released a short time later "after satisfying the conditions of the warrants."

The arrest comes about two weeks after fellow cast member Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi was arrested on the Seaside Heights beach and charged with disorderly conduct. She was arrested after other beachgoers reported Polizzi was bothering them.

Ortiz-Magro was also arrested in September 2009 by Seaside Heights officers after a brawl on the boardwalk.



In this April 22, 2010 file photo, James Cameron arrives at The Green Carpet and Home Tree Earth Day celebration in Los Angeles.

James Cameron, Earth Day group to plant 1M trees

WASHINGTON (AP)—Earth Day Network is enlisting groups in 15 countries to plant 1 million trees this year with "Avatar" movie director James Cameron and Twentieth Century Fox.

The Washington-based group is announcing its plans Sunday. Cameron planted the first of 1 million trees in April in Brazil.

In the U.S., trees will be planted in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles to improve air quality and urban animal habitats.

Tree plantings in such places as Mexico, Canada and Spain will be focused on reforestation of depleted areas.

Other efforts tie in with both development and environmental improvements. In Haiti, the U.S.-based Trees for the Future will work with farmers to plant about 500,000 fruit trees and other native species to provide economic benefits. That makes Haiti one of the largest sites.

President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle and daughter Sasha, 9, spot a porpoise on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010 in St. Andrew Bay near Panama City, Fla. AP



A boat ride and ice cream cap Obama's trip to Gulf

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Barack Obama and his family cruised the waters off their Florida Panhandle hotel on Sunday, offering a portrait of a family on vacation to boost a region struggling with the economic damage wrought by the nation's worst oil spill.

The Obamas boarded the 50-foot Bay Point Lady on a rainy, overcast morning, the second and final day of a weekend getaway during which the president assured residents that his administration would not forget the region even after oil stopped spewing from a broken oil well in the Gulf of Mexico. The family returned to Washington on Sunday afternoon.

With first lady Michelle Obama and 9-year-old daughter Sasha beside him, Obama leaned over the bow of the Bay Point Lady to watch porpoises as their boat cut through the calm waters of St. Andrews Bay. Back on shore, the family stopped for treats—mint chocolate chip ice cream for

the president, Oreo ice cream for Sasha, and a hot fudge sundae without whipped cream for the first lady—before heading home.

The Obamas' 12-year-old daughter, Malia, didn't make the trip because she's away at summer camp.

Obama's 27-hour trip to the Gulf region was his fifth since oil started fouling Gulf waters following an April 20 explosion on an offshore rig operated by oil giant BP. Though the well is no longer leaking, he emphasized that the government's work in the region is far from over.

"I'm here to tell you that our job is not finished and we are not going anywhere until it is," Obama said Saturday.

Much of the long-term recovery efforts in the Gulf will focus on restoring the region's economy, which in areas like the Florida Panhandle is heavily dependent on tourism. Most of the region's beaches stayed open throughout the spill, yet many potential visitors stayed away, apparently deterred by

images of oil-slicked waters and tarball-strewn beaches in other parts of the region.

While both the president and the first lady encouraged Americans to take their summer vacations on the Gulf Coast, they were criticized for not following their own advice, instead traveling to North Carolina and Maine and planning a trip later this month to Martha's Vineyard. Mrs. Obama also took Sasha to Spain.

The White House hoped images from the weekend jaunt to the Gulf would end that criticism. To the delight of locals, Obama took Sasha for a dip Saturday, a signal to other would-be Gulf vacationers that the water and the beaches are fine.

The president's swim happened out of sight of the news media. The White House released an official photo, but The Associated Press does not publish such handout images. According to the White House, the Obamas swam off Alligator Point, which is in Saint Andrews Bay, not the Gulf.

Sheriff: Tequila says audience threw rocks, feces

CARTERVILLE, ILL. (AP)—A sheriff says reality TV actress Tila Tequila complained that audience members pelted her with stones and feces during an outdoor music festival in southern Illinois.

Hardin County Sheriff Tom Seiner told a Cartersville TV station it happened early Saturday at the Gathering of the Juggalos. That's a weekend festival based around the band Insane Clown Posse and other groups from Psychopathic Records.

Seiner told WSIL-TV that Tequila, whose real name is Tila Nguyen, complained that she was injured when audience members threw rocks at her. Seiner said Nguyen also complained that feces were thrown.

The sheriff also said one man stabbed another, though not fatally.

Sheriff's Department dispatcher Jimmy Barnard said early Sunday that he had no other details.



TV Personality Tila Tequila makes an appearance at MTV Studios in Times Square for "MTV's Tila Tequila's New Years Eve Masquerade Party 2008", in this Dec. 31, 2007 file photo taken in New York.

Current fashions offer women little that's decent to wear

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about the letter from "Can't Believe My Eyes" (June 20), who is bothered by the amount of cleavage women display everywhere. I have heard many negative comments in the workplace regarding women's tasteless attire. But most of the remarks I hear come from other women in stores while we try to shop for clothes. They are shocked at how little there is to buy that is "decent" to wear.



Dear Abby

They, as well as I, are tired of having to buy tank tops to wear under shirts or dresses that are cut too low or are too short.

I have three daughters who dress for professional jobs. They, too, express similar frustration at finding clothing that is appropriate to wear. I am sure some women like plunging, skin-tight clothing, but from what I hear the majority do not. Store clerks get complaints and have passed them on to the buyers. But the buyers say there is not much else available.

FRUSTRATED SHOPPER IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: I empathize with your frustration. The feedback from readers on this subject has been abundant, and many agree with you. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As the mother of a well-endowed 13-year-old daughter, I agree with "Can't Believe My Eyes." I hate shopping for clothes with my daughter. It's not because she is difficult, but because the styles are so revealing. My daughter wants to dress trendy while I want her to stay covered up.

I have the same problem when I shop for myself. We use tank tops and hidden safety pins to keep "the girls" under wraps. The problem is not lack of modesty of the wearer, but the clothing designers and manufacturers. I can't wait until the styles change, but for now we are doing our best to cover up.

OKLAHOMA READER

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Hooray for "Can't Believe's" comments on cleavage at businesses and schools, but I'm more disturbed by the number of women—young and not so young—who show way too much in church. I'm a guy who appreciates God's handiwork, but please, ladies, don't showcase it in the pews.

DISTRACTED IN ROME, N.Y.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In your answer you stated there was also a lot showing "south of the border." In Mexico? What about Louisiana? I'd like to go there!

BRUCE IN HAWAII

DEAR BRUCE: Oh, come on! I didn't mean that kind of geography.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Why do people feel the need to dictate the standards of appearance for everyone else? If it doesn't harm you, it's none of your business. If you don't like the employees where you shop, go somewhere else.

I'm a 54-year-old guy who looks and dresses conservatively. My dentist has spiky hair with purple streaks and looks young enough to be in high school. My mechanic has a hole in his earlobe you could shove a quarter through. My electrician has tattoos on his face. But they all do great work, and I wouldn't trade 'em. Why force everyone into one narrow description of what's "acceptable"? I'm for ability over appearance.

OPEN-MINDED IN PHOENIX

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I've been in banking for 30 years and have seen many changes, especially after casual dress days started. Many younger women in the office didn't understand what that meant. Memos went out, but nothing changed until a female division manager was brought in to address the problem. I'll never forget what she said: "Look at yourself in the mirror before you leave for work and ask yourself if you look like you're going to 'get lucky.' If the answer is yes, then you need to change your clothes." Abby, we never had a dress code problem again.

RHONDA IN THE SOUTHWEST

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

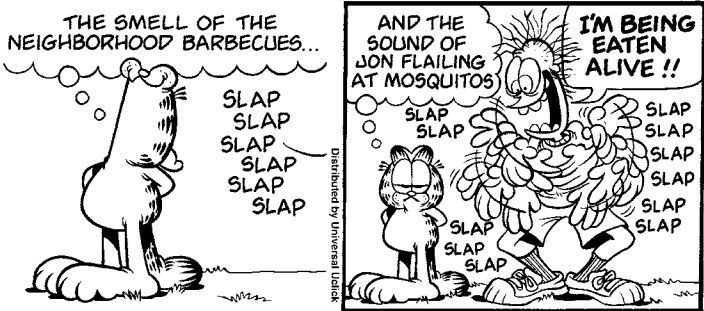
Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield®**

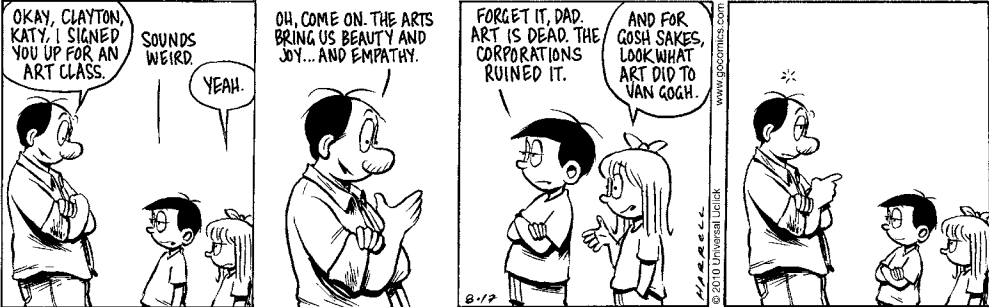
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset **The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

41 Carib-
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4 Easter
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5 Sing a la
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6 Versifier

7 Billboards

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9 Winged

10 Tubular
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11 Being, to

16 CSA
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22 Mooch

23 TV

24 Under the
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25 Seek
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26 Proof
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27 Dandy

28 Before

29 East
Coast st.

31 Tooth-
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34 Crucial

35 Bellow

37 Senses

38 Resumes,
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39 A deadly
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40 Paradise

41 Actor
LaBeouf

42 Bullets
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43 Tells a
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44 Actress
Paquin

46 Label

47 Corn
spike

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Don-
nie Wahlberg, 41; Don McKellar, 47; Sean Penn,
50; Robert De Niro, 67

Happy Birthday: Focus on home, family and
getting things accomplished. Sticking to a budget
and cutting corners will help to ease your stress.
Once you get into the routine of what you can
and cannot do, you will find it easy to reach your
goals and to maintain what you have already ac-
complished. Common sense coupled with practi-
cal application will be your saving grace. Your
numbers are 2, 8, 20, 24, 27, 30, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There is
lots going on behind the scenes and, al-
though you may not be aware of the op-
portunities heading your way, you will be soon. A
problem with government, taxes or an institution
will leave you feeling uncertain. Just ride out the
storm. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may
need to spend a little to make a little but
don't go overboard. Use discretion and stick
to the financial guidelines you set. Talk matters over
with colleagues. There is a lot to learn from working
alongside someone with experience. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Social net-
working will pay off. Consider ways to
make improvements that will capture at-
tention, boost your ego and help whatever pre-
sentation you display. Love is highlighted but
will also entail some sort of commitment. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Work from
home if possible and you will avoid dis-
ruptions as well as an aggravating situa-
tion. Put together a plan that will help you be

successful. Moderation will be the key to accom-
plishing what you set out to do. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your ability to
draw interest in whatever you pursue
will lead to your success. Communi-
cating with people who have the potential to
positively influence your future will mark the
beginning of an interesting relationship. Love is
apparent. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let
someone's emotions challenge you or
cost you financially. Not everyone will
agree with you right now but eventually your de-
cision will prove positive. An alteration at home
will help you out financially. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't stifle
your emotions when you need to clear
the air about what's bothering you. It's
impossible to move forward if you don't know
where you stand. Be creative in your approach
but don't skirt important issues. Promises made
must be kept. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect
things to change rapidly. Before you
get settled, look for alternate ways to
approach what needs to be done. The ability to
make last-minute changes will separate you from
any competition you face. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):
Your ability to speak and react from the
heart will get you the greatest mileage,
not trying to impress by using false information.
Stick to basics and, professionally and personal-
ly, people will join in and help you with whatever
you pursue. ★★★

**EUGENIA
LAST**

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You
may want to keep your thoughts to your-
self when it comes to love. Traveling
should be kept to a minimum. Focus more on im-
portant financial matters or contractual deals that
can alter your future. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Time,
money and advancement should be high-
lighted. There is nothing you cannot do if
you try. Being adaptable will add to your success.
Don't allow anyone to take advantage of your good
nature or your desire to help a cause. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be
tempted to overreact and to be impulsive
with regard to decisions that can make or
break a partnership. Think before you do or say
something you may regret. There is plenty of time
to figure out what you should or can do. ★★

Birthday Baby: You look, you see, you ques-
tion. You are open-minded, outgoing and de-
termined to do what's right. You face life with
enthusiasm.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confi-
dential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast
for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

8/17

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Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hori-
zontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR
LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell
the Wonderword.

L-TYROSINE Solution: 10 letters

A G R E E K A V O C A D O O F
N L E V O D O P A M S A L P M
A U Z C E C O N V E R S I O N
N T S H I K I M I C A C I D C
A A T L E V I T A V I R E D C
B T M O N I N A L E M A A E H
P H E R R E M O S I S N C E L
H I D O P B O E Y L T L E S O
O O I P A I E O R I P S L N R
S N C L R M G C B M A O L I O
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A I E T E I E L U C E L O M Y
T S I S E H T N Y S O I B U L
E H E S E T A N E H P E R P L

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Cheese, Chlorophyll, Chloroplasts, Cold, Conversion, Derivative,
Diet, Dosage, Fish, Food, Glutathione, Greek, Isomer, Levodopa,
Medicine, Melanin, Meta, Molecule, Para, Phosphate, Pills,
Plasma, Poppy, Prephenate, Pumpkin Seed, Sesame, Shikimic
Acid, Yogurt
Yesterday's Answer: Bookmark
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10-043	Trades Technician (Electrician)	1	\$17,282.00	Two-year	Power Plant, Rota
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10-045	Administrative Support Technician	1	\$13,625.00	Two-year	Administration, Rota

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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US beats France in first exhibition game



NEW YORK (AP)—Even the old guy found something new in the young Americans' debut.

"First time I've been in the Garden and the people have been cheering for me," Chauncey Billups said.

Billups scored 17 points, nine in an early third-quarter flurry that broke open the game, and the United States beat France 86-55 on Sunday in its only home exhibition before the world championships.

Rudy Gay had 19 points to lead the Americans, who started slowly in their first tuneup before running away from the French in the second half. Billups, one of the few players on the roster with international experience, made three 3-pointers while playing just 15 minutes.

The 33-year-old Billups, who played for the U.S. in the 2007 Olympic qualifier, expected some nerves from a roster that includes five 21-year-olds.

"Now you're really playing a real game," he said. "You're on TV and it doesn't mean that much but internally it does because we're trying to work toward something."

Kevin Durant added 14 points and eight rebounds for the Americans, who open the world championships on Aug. 28 against Croatia.

Boris Diaw scored 15 points for France, which surrendered a 16-4 run early in the third quarter after staying close with the Americans in the first half.

"The second half I just thought we just settled down," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "You don't have to be perfect. Every shot you take doesn't have to go in."

The Americans trimmed their roster to 13 earlier Sunday when they cut Jeff Green and JaVale McGee. They final cut will come sometime in Europe, perhaps not until they have completed their exhibition schedule.

They leave Monday for Madrid, where the schedule gets tougher. They face Lithuania and defending world champion Spain while there, then travel to Athens for a game against Greece.

"We left off on a good note," guard Derrick Rose said.

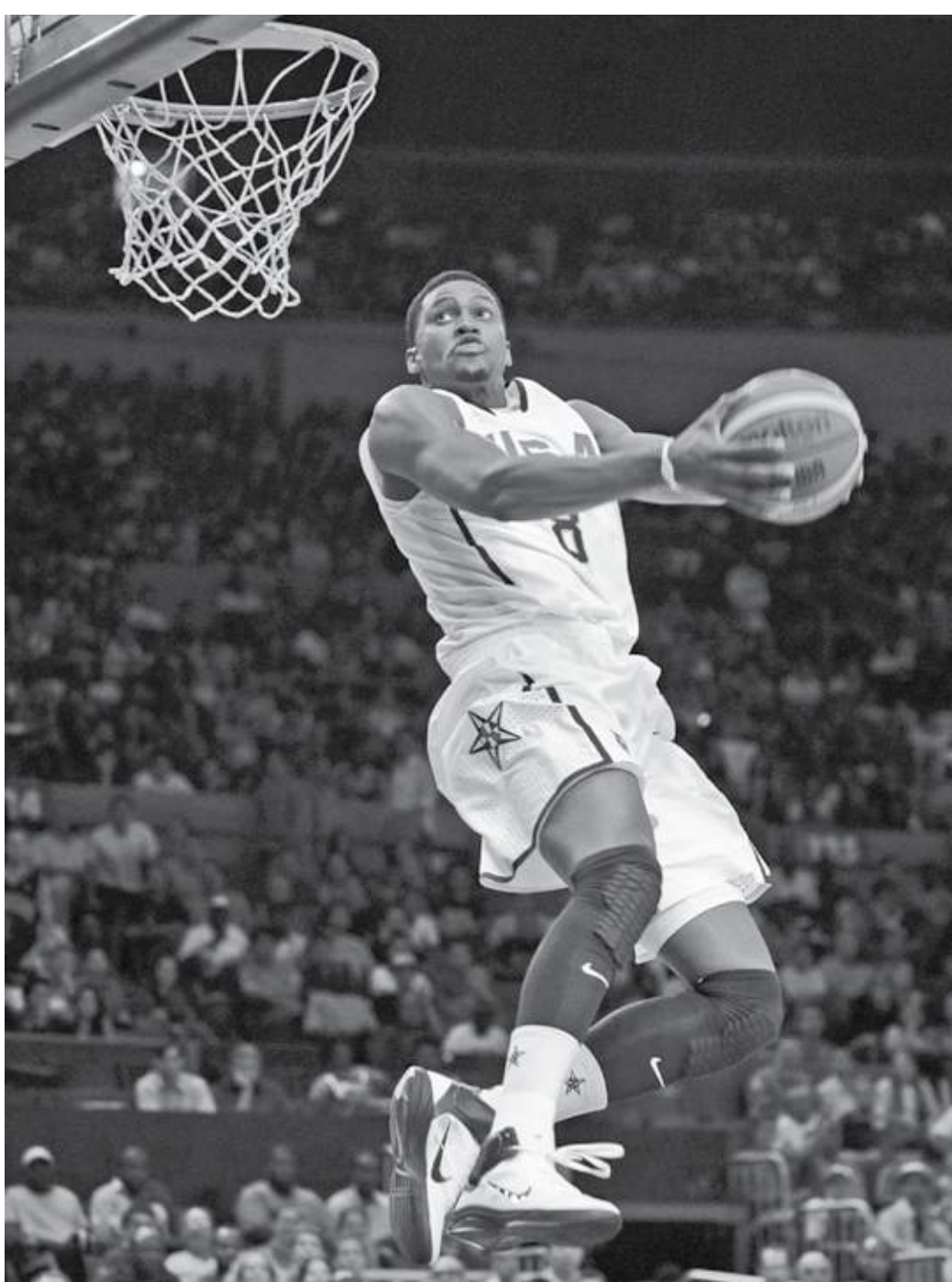
The opener of a doubleheader at Madison Square Garden was the first international game for much of the U.S. roster. The Americans will send a young team to Turkey after all 12 players from the 2008 Olympic gold medalists decided to take the summer off.

"A lot of the big name guys are not here, so people are kind of counting us out," Durant said. "So we definitely have something to prove and tonight was a good start."

That has left an athletic squad that features Tyson Chandler as the only center. He played with Billups on the team three years ago, but most of the team is much younger.

"It is a young team," Diaw said. "Chauncey Billups is the daddy of the team but everyone else is pretty young."

France was down only seven after getting the opening basket



United States guard Rudy Gay goes up for a dunk during the third quarter of an exhibition basketball game against France Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

of the second half before Billups' 3-pointer gave the Americans their first double-digit lead. After a basket by Chandler, Billups made another 3 for a 47-34 advantage with 7:46 left in the third.

Consecutive three-point plays by Billups and Durant pushed it to 55-36 with 5:05 to go in the period. The lead ballooned to 70-46 early in the fourth after two straight powerful dunks by Gay.

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time," Gay said. "It's our last time playing on U.S. soil."

France is also short-handed this summer. Its best player, Tony Parker, sat courtside along with wife Eva Longoria Parker and another French player, new Knicks forward Ronny Turiaf. Joakim Noah, also sitting out, also attended the game.

The French still have NBA players such as Diaw and Nicolas Batum, who scored 11.

Krzyzewski went with Billups, Durant, Rajon Rondo and Andre Iguodala to start the game. Kevin Love, who missed a day of practice this week with a calf injury, and Russell Westbrook didn't play until the fourth quarter.

The game was tied at 16 after a first quarter in which the Americans shot only 37.5 percent and committed five turnovers. Durant missed his first five shots but finally got a pair of dunks midway through the second period. Rondo had the last two U.S. baskets of the half, extending the lead to 39-30 at the break.

China played Puerto Rico in the second game.

Burgess practices with Patriots



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots' once-muddled linebacking situation is starting to clear.

Linebacker Derrick Burgess was reinstated Friday to the active roster from the reserve-did not report list after being missing since the start of training camp. After passing a physical and conditioning test, he practiced for the first time with the team Sunday.

Burgess a veteran of nine NFL seasons, who signed a one-year, \$1.5 million contract in May, attributed his absence to personal reasons. There had been speculation he might retire, but Burgess didn't mention that.

"I had to take care of my family business before I could report," he said.

Burgess said he had kept Patriots officials updated about what he was doing and that his absence had nothing to do with any issue with the team itself.

"I'm happy to be here," Burgess said after reiterating the reason for his absence was family related.

Burgess said he was "a little

rusty" in his first practice back, but that he felt good.

He said he wasn't sure how long it would take him to get back and see game action. "I'll work hard at it and take it day by day."

Burgess is being counted on heavily to provide a pass rush from the outside along with fellow outside linebacker Tully Banta-Cain, but said his overall influence on the Patriots' fortunes is limited.

"It's a team sport," he said. "All I can do is help the team."

Burgess said his absence had nothing to do with the grind of the two-a-day practices of an NFL training camp.

"It wasn't like I was just missing camp," he said. "I had too much on my mind and things to take care of. It was a relief when I was done with it and was able to come to camp."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Friday the circumstances behind Burgess' decision to report were "personal conversations" between him and the player and that things changed when he reported Friday morning and passed his physical and conditioning test.

Belichick, when asked if he

was convinced Burgess is committed to playing football for the entire season, said "Well, I'm glad he's here."

Burgess, who played in 16 games last season with six starts and had 35 total tackles, five sacks, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery, was viewed as a bit of a disappointment in his first year with the Pats.

He earned Pro Bowl honors in his first two seasons with the Oakland Raiders, with 16 sacks in 2005 and 11 sacks in 2006.

Rookie inside linebacker Brandon Spikes, a second-round pick out of Florida, impressed in his first NFL game, a 27-24 win over New Orleans on Thursday. He had three solo tackles and five assists, and said he is making the adjustment to the Patriots' 3-4 alignment.

"It's a change in the blocking schemes and how I take my reads, but it's the same game," he said.

He said he is already starting to work well together on the inside with Jerod Mayo.

"It's fun to play next to him," Spikes said. "I know he's going to be there and make plays and I feel like I can do the same thing."

Haslem cited after Miami-Dade traffic stop



MIAMI (AP)—Heat forward Udonis Haslem was arrested Sunday for possession of marijuana following a traffic stop in Miami-Dade County.

Haslem, 30, was stopped in a 2008 Mercedes around 3:05 p.m. going eastbound on the Gratiot Parkway because of speeding, Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Sgt. Mark Wysocky said. The trooper smelled "an odor of marijuana from within the vehicle," Wysocky wrote in a press release, leading to the arrest of both Haslem and passenger Antwain Fleming, 33.

"After the subsequent search, Mr. Haslem and Mr. Fleming were placed under arrest," Wysocky wrote.

According to Miami-Dade court records, Haslem was charged with possessing more than 20 grams of marijuana, a third-degree felony which could bring maximum punishments of a \$5,000 fine and a five-year prison sentence.

Haslem was released on

Nuggets waive Karl's son

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets have waived guard Coby Karl, the son of coach George Karl, along with center Brian Butch.

Both players were signed on April 11 but didn't appear in any games in the regular season or playoffs.

Karl averaged 14 points, 6.3 rebounds and 3.3 assists in four games with Denver's summer league team in Las Vegas. Butch appeared in two summer-league games, averaging seven points and six boards.

George Karl is on vacation as he prepares to return to court-side next month after fighting throat cancer since the spring.

bond shortly after 10 p.m.

Besides the speeding citation, Haslem was also charged with illegal window tint, Wysocky said.

Both Haslem's agent, Henry Thomas, and Heat officials said they were collecting information and did not have any immediate comment.

Court records said Fleming was charged with possessing less than 20 grams of marijuana, a first-degree misdemeanor that could bring a \$1,000 fine and one-year prison term.

Haslem has spent all seven of his NBA seasons with the Heat, and the South Florida native

signed a new five-year contract to stay with the team last month.

"He is our anchor, he is a true warrior and a great professional," Heat president Pat Riley said in July, after Haslem announced he would forgo higher-paying offers elsewhere to stay in Miami and not only continue playing alongside Dwyane Wade, but stay to be teammates with marquee acquisitions LeBron James and Chris Bosh as well.

During his NBA career, Haslem has averaged 10.0 points and 8.1 rebounds for Miami, plus helped the Heat win the 2006 NBA championship.

Bullington gets first win as KC beats Yankees



KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—

Bryan Bullington, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2002, threw eight crisp innings for his first major league win, leading the Kansas City Royals to a 1-0 victory over the New York Yankees on Sunday.

Bullington (1-2) allowed two hits, walked one and struck out five to outpitch A.J. Burnett (9-10), who yielded four hits and one run in eight innings. Joakim Soria finished the two-hitter, extending his club record with his 26th consecutive save.

Alex Rodriguez, who homered in his final three at-bats Saturday night, slammed a Bullington pitch to deep center leading off the second inning, driving Gregor Blanco almost to the wall. But A-Rod went down quietly the rest of the way.

The Yankees, facing a pitcher they'd never seen, were shut out for the sixth time one day after everyone in the lineup got at least one hit in an 8-3 victory.

Twins 4, Athletics 2

At Minneapolis, Kevin Slowey held Oakland without a hit for seven innings before reliever Jon Rauch gave up the no-hit bid in the eighth as the Twins finished their fifth series sweep.

Slowey (11-5) combined with Jon Rauch, Jesse Crain and Matt Capps to limit Oakland to three hits, while Jason Kubel drove in the first run for Minnesota and Jim Thome homered for a team that will open a key AL Central series against the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday.

The Twins (68-50) also moved 18 games over .500, their best record in nearly two years.

Rays 3, Orioles 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Jeremy Hellickson threw six sharp innings to become the first Tampa Bay pitcher to win his first three major league starts.

Hellickson (3-0) allowed one run and three hits, and has given up three runs and nine hits over 20 innings in the majors. Carl Crawford homered and drove in two runs to support him.

Jake Fox went deep for the Orioles, who were trying to win four consecutive series for the first time since August 3-15, 2004. Jake Arrieta (4-4) gave up three runs and six hits over six innings as Baltimore lost its second straight for the first time under Buck Showalter.

Blue Jays 4, Angels 1

At Anaheim, Ricky Romero pitched seven solid innings one day after signing a multiyear contract extension for the Blue Jays.

Romero (10-7) allowed six hits, struck out four and walked three. The only run off the left-hander came in the fifth, when Mike Napoli hit his 19th homer, one shy of last season's total.

Kevin Gregg struck out the



Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Bryan Bullington throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010, in Kansas City, Mo. AP

side in the ninth for his 27th save in 31 chances.

Dan Haren (1-3) gave up four runs and nine hits over seven innings and struck out five in his fifth start with Angels. The three-time All-Star, who averaged 14.6 victories over the previous five seasons, is 1-7 in his last 12 outings overall.

Rangers 7, Red Sox 3

At Arlington, C.J. Wilson dominated into the eighth inning and the AL West-leading Rangers used small ball to go ahead before Michael Young's big hit against Boston.

Young hit a three-run homer in the seventh off Manny Delcarmen to make it 5-0.

Wilson (11-5) limited the Red Sox to one run and four hits while striking out eight with one walk. The left-hander exited after throwing 75 of his 113 pitches for strikes on a steamy day.

While Wilson has now won a career-best four consecutive decisions since mid-July.

Tigers 13, White Sox 8

At Chicago, Johnny Damon hit a go-ahead, two-run triple in the eighth inning and Jhonny Peralta homered twice as the Tigers rallied to beat the White Sox.

Miguel Cabrera and Ryan Raburn also connected for the Tigers, who won for only the third time in 16 road games. Detroit also snapped a string of 10 straight road series losses.

Cabrera went deep against Sergio Santos in the seventh and Detroit added three more in the eighth. Damon had the key two-out hit against J.J. Putz (5-5),

but center fielder Andruw Jones dropped pinch-hitter Brandon Inge's fly ball for a run-scoring error that made it 9-7.

Indians 9, Mariners 1

At Cleveland, Travis Hafner came off the disabled list to hit a grand slam, Michael Brantley drove in three runs and the Indians scored seven times in the seventh inning.

Hafner connected off Seattle ace Felix Hernandez (8-10) after a two-out error by second baseman Chone Figgins opened the door for Cleveland's seven-run seventh inning.

Tony Sipp (2-2) worked a perfect seventh after Justin Masterson allowed one hit over six scoreless innings for Cleveland, which is just 4-11 at home since July 24.

Mariners interim manager Daren Brown dropped to 4-2 since being promoted from managing Triple-A Tacoma to replace the fired Dan Wakamatsu on Monday.

Padres 8, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Yorvit Torrealba homered and Miguel Tejada hit a two-run single to back Wade LeBlanc as the first-place San Diego Padres took a key series from the San Francisco Giants.

Tony Gwynn Jr. and Everth Cabrera also singled in runs in San Diego's four-run second as the Padres moved 3 1/2 games ahead of the Giants in the NL West.

Tim Lincecum (11-7) is on the first losing streak of three straight starts in his career. The two-time reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, facing the Padres for the

first time since beating them on July 9 last year, was done after his second-shortest outing this year of 3 2-3 innings.

Giants rookie Buster Posey hit a two-run homer in the third.

LeBlanc (7-10) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings.

Phillies 3, Mets 1

At New York, the Phillies ended the Mets' miserable week.

Jimmy Rollins stole two bases and Shane Victorino swiped another to help manufacture two-out runs for the Phillies. Jayson Werth tripled and reached base three times as Philadelphia won the final two games of the three-game series after snapping their 38-inning scoreless streak at Citi Field.

With a whimper, the Mets ended a trying week in which a civil suit was filed against ace Johan Santana by the woman who accused him of raping her—no charges were filed—last year in Florida and their closer was charged with third-degree assault for allegedly beating his girlfriend's father outside the family room at Citi Field.

Cubs 9, Cardinals 7

At St. Louis, Derrek Lee homered his first two at-bats, helping Chicago beat Kyle Lohse and knock St. Louis out of first place in the NL Central.

Ryan Dempster (11-8) won his third straight start for the Cubs, who have won only four of 18 but took two out of three against a team that had grabbed the division lead with a three-game sweep at Cincinnati.

St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols became the first player to hit 30 homers in his first 10 seasons when he belted a drive to center in the first.

The Cardinals trail Cincinnati by one game after the Reds beat the Marlins 2-0.

Lohse (1-5) allowed seven runs in three-plus innings.

St. Louis scored five times in the ninth but Carlos Marmol managed to close it out for his 21st save in 25 chances.

Reds 2, Marlins 0

At Cincinnati, Miguel Cairo hit a two-run homer and Homer Bailey filled in admirably for the suspended Johnny Cueto, throwing six impressive innings to help the Reds complete the three-game sweep.

The Reds bounced back from getting swept by the Cardinals in their showdown series earlier in the week. Cueto got a seven-game suspension for kicking Cardinals during a brawl on Tuesday.

Cairo connected for his fourth homer in the sixth inning against Anibal Sanchez (9-8), who yielded five hits in six innings.

Bailey (2-2) was activated off the disabled list and allowed only three hits, retiring the last 10 batters he faced.

Braves 13, Dodgers 1

In Atlanta, Troy Glaus hit a three-run homer and finished with four RBIs for the Braves.

Alex Gonzalez also drove in four runs for the Braves, who improved the majors' best home record to 41-16. Jair Jurrjens (5-4) gave up one run in seven stellar innings.

Vicente Padilla (6-4) gave up a season-high eight earned runs in 4 1-3 innings. His ERA rose from 3.32 to 3.96.

Rockies 6, Brewers 5

At Denver, Troy Tulowitzki rescued Colorado with a game-ending RBI single after Milwaukee leveled it with two unearned runs in the ninth.

Center fielder Dexter Fowler, a defensive replacement in the eighth, initially kept the Brewers at bay when he leaped to rob Chris Dickerson of a homer leading off the ninth against Huston Street.

But the Brewers loaded the bases with two outs after Street hit Rickie Weeks with a pitch. Second baseman Clint Barmes dropped Corey Hart's popup for an error, letting in a pair of runs to tie it at 5.

Colorado responded in the bottom half against Trevor Hoffman (2-6), putting runners on first and second with two out. Tulowitzki then drove a Hoffman pitch back up the middle and past the glove of diving second baseman Weeks, scoring Fowler.

Rafael Betancourt (2-1) relieved Street and struck out Ryan Braun to get the win.

Nationals 5, Diamondbacks 3

At Washington, Ian Desmond hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning for the Nationals.

With the game level at 3, Adam Kennedy led off the seventh with a single off Jordan Norberto (0-2). He advanced on pinch-hitter Alberto Gonzalez's sacrifice and, after Roger Bernadina popped out, Desmond singled to right for the lead.

The hit broke a scoreless streak of 17 2-3 innings by the Diamondbacks bullpen.

Adam LaRoche homered for Arizona, and Josh Willingham and Ryan Zimmerman connected for Washington, which had lost six of seven.

Astros 8, Pirates 2

At Houston, pinch-hitter Pedro Feliz hit a two-run double in Houston's four-run sixth inning as the Astros extended Pittsburgh's skid to seven games.


Hunter Pence and Chris Johnson had three hits apiece for Houston, which trailed 2-1 after five innings. Jeff Keppinger had two RBIs.

J.A. Happ (3-1) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings to improve to 2-1 in four starts since he was acquired from Philadelphia in the Roy Oswalt trade.

Jeff Karstens (2-9) was charged with five runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings as Pittsburgh lost its 10th straight road game.

Plate umpire Alan Porter had to leave in the sixth inning after he was struck on the head on Lee's swing. Porter walked off the field and required five stitches to close a laceration.

Rain wipes out two UFO caging play dates

 Two playing dates were rained out last week and the United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League is crossing its fingers that Mother Nature will be more cooperative when it resumes play tonight at the J.P. Center Basketball in Garapan.

The masters division will be featured in the first game of the double-header with league-leading Cabalen-Wings Travel (2-0) locking horns with

MDX-Pacific Trading Co. (0-1) starting at 6:30pm.

Wings Travel is expected to rely on a starting five that is the envy of the league, as it boasts of Bruce Berline, Edwin Santos, Edsel Mendoza, Junar Guiab, and Tony Diaz.

In the second game, Bartenders-Island Apparel (0-2) and Bayani-Soul Jass (0-2) will face each other in a battle of winless teams in the open division.

Island Apparel will lean on a trio of high scoring guards—Manny Matago-

lai, Marlon Sison, and Jesse Mina—to earn its first win. Bayani, for its part, will parade swingman Leo Pagarao, sweet-shooting Jun Tabora, and center Alex Lauron against Bartenders.

UFO was forced to cancel its Thursday and Saturday games last week on account of rain, which rendered the J.P. Center Basketball Court unplayable.


League-leading MDX-Chow Queen (3-0) was set to take on Cavite (2-1) in the first game, while Bayani (0-2) was expected to duel with SIS Wireless (0-2)

in Thursday’s all-open division matches.

The Saturday schedule, meanwhile, was supposed to have masters teams MAFEA (0-2) and Laguna (0-1) seeing action in the first game, while the second game had MAFEA-Alii Konflikt (2-1) going up against SIP-Mobil (2-0) in the open division.

UFO resident statistician Andrew Mesina said if rain doesn’t interrupt matches tonight, UFO games on Thursday will be the cancelled matches last Aug. 12. *(Mark Rabago)*

Zumi Shooters zoom to lead

 Zumi Shooters continued to be on target in the Thursday B Flame Tree Division of the Bud Light SEDA Summer/Fall 2010.

The team improved its win-loss record to 22-8 after humbling The Flair Get Sum, 13-2, Thursday night at Jonny’s Bar. The loss dropped the latter deeper into the cellar with a 10-20 card.

D’Pirates IDK 2 is a far second in

the division with a 11-4 record, while Buddies Wild Shooters and Naked Fish Onaga’s! complete the .500 teams at 9-6 and 15-15, respectively.

VFW Assashunz (13-17), VFW Dutty Gunza (13-17), and Gaia Gai-ana B (12-18) make up the rest of the participating teams in the Thursday B Flame Tree Division.

Over in the Thursday B Fanihi Division, VFW No Fear is on top with a 22-8 record, followed by Buddies

Boyz B (19-11) and Sande’s Top Shooters (18-12).

Buddies Salbahe Brothers (9-6), Naked Fish Barracuda (13-17), IT&E Kamote’s (12-18), The Flair Sand Baggerz (4-11), and Buddies Naughty Boyz 2 (8-22) complete the cast in the Thursday B Fanihi Division.

DPW nips Na’Gupu

DPW Troubleshooters barely maintained its hold of second place in the Bud Light Lime 2nd Inter-Government Dart League after nipping PSS Na’Gupu, 8-7, Friday night at Naked Fish.

The win gave DPW a 27-18 record, which is eight full games behind first place AG’s Piligro (35-10), while the loss dropped PSS Na’Gupu to 22-23.

CUC Power Plant (17-13), DYS ATDIT (22-23), PSS South Side (21-24), Public Health Oh Yeah! (12-18), DPS Enforcers (18-27), and NMC Proa (6-24) are also taking part in the government dart league.

For more information on the Bud Light SEDA Summer/Fall 2010 and Bud Light Lime 2nd Inter-Government Dart League, call league secretary Warle Ellama at 233-4397. *(Mark Rabago)*

KAYMER

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kers—more than 1,000—that not even architect Pete Dye can count them all. Perhaps it was only fitting that one of them played such a pivotal role in the season’s final major.

“It was very tough to see what is a bunker and what is not a bunker,” said Kaymer, who won the three-hole playoff with a tap-in bogey. “I think it’s very sad he got two penalty strokes. He played great golf. He’s a very nice guy.”

Kaymer won his first major in a PGA Championship that will be remembered as much for the guy who tied for fifth.

It was the cruelest end to a major since Roberto de Vicenzo signed for a higher score than he actually made in the 1968 Masters, which kept him out of a playoff against Bob Goalby.

Johnson had no excuses. The peculiar rule about every bunker being treated the same had been posted in the locker room all week. And he offered none when a PGA rules official stopped him walking off the green and said, “We’ve got an issue.”

His first reaction when told he might

have grounded his club in a bunker: “What bunker?”

Johnson didn’t even bother going to the TV truck to study the replay. He knew he grounded the club. He just didn’t know that he was in the edge of a bunker, figuring it was grass that had been killed under so much foot traffic.

“The only worse thing that could have happened was if I had made the putt on that last hole,” Johnson said.

Thinking he had a chance to win, Johnson missed a 7-foot par putt on the 18th to seemingly slip into a three-man playoff. Instead, the two-shot penalty turned his 71 into a 73, and instead of going to a playoff for redemption from his U.S. Open meltdown, Johnson tied for fifth and headed home.

As Johnson was leaving the course, Kaymer was coming up clutch again.

The 25-year-old German holed a 15-foot par putt on the 18th hole in regulation for a 2-under 70 to join Watson (68) at 11-under 277. One shot behind in the playoff, Kaymer made another 15-foot putt for birdie on the par-3 17th, then watched Watson implode.

Watson went from the right rough into the water, then over the green into a bunker. His bunker shot hit the flag,

and he tapped in for double bogey. Kaymer chipped out after seeing Watson go in the water, and he hit 7-iron to 15 feet for a two-putt bogey.

“I don’t realize what happened,” Kaymer said. “I just won my first major. I’ve got goose bumps just talking about it.”

Kaymer earned \$1.35 million, went to third in the Ryder Cup standings for Europe and moved to a career-best No. 5 in the world.

Watson was only disappointed for a few minutes until learning he had played his way onto the Ryder Cup team.

For Johnson, this might take far longer to recover from than the U.S. Open, where he had a three-shot lead going into the final round, took triple bogey on the second hole and shot an 82.

The final major of the year proved to be the most thrilling over the final hour, even with Woods long gone before all the excitement began. Woods closed with a 73 and tied for 28th.

Six players had a share of the lead at some point Sunday, and six players were separated by one shot over the final 30 minutes.

That included Rory McIlroy, the 21-year-old from Northern Ireland who was trying to become the youngest ma-

jor champion in 80 years. He had a 20-foot birdie putt on the final hole to join the clubhouse leaders at 11 under, only for the putt to turn away.

Also one shot behind was former Masters champion Zach Johnson. Both of them needed a birdie on the 500-yard closing hole that only allowed one birdie in the final round.

For all the clutch putts by Kaymer, however, this PGA Championship came down to the bunkers.

Six years ago in the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits, Stuart Appleby was unaware of the rule and was assessed a four-shot penalty. Appleby said Sunday night on Twitter that changes are needed for the PGA Championship that returns in 2015 on a course “that has hundreds of point-less bunkers that patrons have to walk through to view players.”

“I’m very ... angered that this is the way the 2010 PGA came to an end,” he said.

Johnson never disputed that he grounded his club, yet he was no less stunned to realize he was in a bunker. Inside the scoring room, he could be seen erasing the 5 on this scorecard and changing it to a 7.

REZNE

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ment my family has given me,” he said.

Wong also gave kudos to his coaches who nurtured his swimming talent and teammates who trained beside him and always encouraged him.

“I would like to thank coach Bill Sakovich (Saipan Swim Club), Mike Stewart (SSC), Hiro Kimura (Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan), Victor Wales (UH-Manoa) and Chuck Riggs (UH-Manoa) for all the discipline, train-

ing, and techniques they provided me. I’d also like to thank my teammates—Kai Staal and Shin and Ken Kimura—and the rest of the CNMI Swim Team for their teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendship they gave me before, during, and after the Games,” he said.

Wong added that he was happy that Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president and Team Marianas delegation chef de mission Michael White received the Male Top Athlete award in his behalf.

“I knew the financial restraints of NMASA. Having us in Palau for a few

more days really pushed the financial availabilities of the sports association. I am glad Mike White had the chance to receive it on my and the CNMI’s behalf,” he said a few days before flying back to Hawaii where he will be an incoming Marine Biology sophomore at UH-Manoa.

Wong dominated the swimming competition in Palau and was first to touch the tile in the 200m and 400m individual medley, 100m and 200m backstroke, 100m and 800m freestyle, 50m, 100m, and 200m butterfly. He also ruled the five-kilometer ocean swim.

Wong also teamed up with Staal and the Kimura brothers to bag gold medals in the 200m and 400m medley and 400m freestyle relays. His only non-gold medal performance in the quadrennial event was when he finished second to Staal in the 50m freestyle.

Before leaving Saipan for school Monday, Wong shared the CNMI Swimming Team’s battle cry in the Palau Micro Games to present and future Commonwealth athletes—*Mas magas, mas moulek, un corazon!* It roughly translates to “More leading, more better, one heart.”

CNMI

From Page 28

The CNMI was shut out at the plate for a fifth time in a row in the bottom half, but Guerrero struck out the side in the top of the seventh.

In the bottom half of the last inning, the CNMI managed a couple of runs off four hits and an error, but were still a day late and a dollar short.

Leonard Sablan and Richard Dela Cruz

each hit one-out singles. An out later, Jesse Yamagishi brought in Sablan with an RBI single and Carl Camacho followed suit with an RBI single that brought home Zachary Aldan, Dela Cruz’s pinch runner, but Yamagishi got picked off on his way to third to end the game.

Players commented about the cold weather being a factor and perhaps they may not have warmed up enough before the game.

“We haven’t adapted to the weather yet...the first inning really killed us, but

after that the defense really picked up. Unfortunately, we only managed six hits all game,” said CNMI outfielder Sablan.

But the team is still in good spirits, “I think the one thing that will carry this team is our heart and our chemistry, that’s the No. 1 thing,” said CNMI catcher Yamagishi.

Leonard Sablan went 1-for-1 with an RBI and a run, while Carl Camacho finished 1-for-2 with an RBI. Marvin Ngeskebei was 1-for-2 with an RBI, Jesse Yamagishi 1-for-2 with an RBI,

MacGarette 0-for-1 with two base on balls and a run. Richard Dela Cruz, meanwhile, recorded a 2-for-3 performance at the plate.

Nate Guerrero pitched five strikeouts in two innings and gave up a hit and an unearned run. The CNMI suffered four fielding errors, 11 strikeouts at the plate, six hits, and left nine batters on base. However, they struck out 14 batters and Aruba, who scored eight runs off eight hits, also left nine runners on base and made five fielding errors.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	72	45	.615	—
Tampa Bay	71	46	.607	1
Boston	67	52	.563	6
Toronto	62	55	.530	10
Baltimore	41	77	.347	31 1 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	68	50	.576	—
Chicago	65	53	.551	3
Detroit	57	60	.487	10Q
Cleveland	49	69	.415	19
Kansas City	49	69	.415	19

West Division

Texas	67	49	.578	—
Los Angeles	60	59	.504	8Q
Oakland	57	59	.491	10
Seattle	46	72	.390	22

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	68	49	.581	—
Philadelphia	66	51	.564	2
New York	58	59	.496	10
Florida	57	59	.491	10 1/2
Washington	51	67	.432	17 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	67	51	.568	—
St. Louis	65	51	.560	1
Milwaukee	55	64	.462	12 1/2
Houston	51	65	.440	15
Chicago	50	68	.424	17
Pittsburgh	39	78	.333	27 1/2

West Division

San Diego	69	47	.595	—
San Francisco	67	52	.563	3 1/2
Colorado	61	56	.521	8 1/2
Los Angeles	60	58	.508	10
Arizona	47	72	.395	23 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 2, Florida 0

Washington 5, Arizona 3

Atlanta 13, L.A. Dodgers 1

Houston 8, Pittsburgh 2

Chicago Cubs 9, St. Louis 7

Colorado 6, Milwaukee 5

San Diego 8, San Francisco 2

Philadelphia 3, N.Y. Mets 1

Cleveland 9, Seattle 1

Tampa Bay 3, Baltimore 2

Detroit 13, Chicago White Sox 8

Kansas City 1, N.Y. Yankees 0

Minnesota 4, Oakland 2

Texas 7, Boston 3

Toronto 4, L.A. Angels 1

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP PAR SCORES

SHEBOYGAN, Wisconsin (AP)—Scores Sunday from the \$7.5 million PGA Championship, played at the par-72, 7,514-yard Whistling Straits, Straits Course:

FINAL ROUND

x-Martin Kaymer (0), \$1,350,000	72-68-67-70-277	-11
Bubba Watson (330), \$810,000	68-71-70-68-277	-11
Zach Johnson (180), \$435,000	69-70-69-70-278	-10
Rory McIlroy (180), \$435,000	71-68-67-72-278	-10
Jason Dufner (110), \$270,833	73-66-69-71-279	-9
Steve Elkington (110), \$270,833	71-70-67-71-279	-9
Dustin Johnson (110), \$270,833	71-68-67-73-279	-9
Camilo Villegas (91), \$210,000	71-71-70-68-280	-8
Liang Wenchong (0), \$210,000	72-71-64-73-280	-8
Matt Kuchar (80), \$175,800	67-69-73-72-281	-7
Jason Day (80), \$175,800	69-72-66-74-281	-7
Phil Mickelson (66), \$138,050	73-69-73-67-282	-6
Paul Casey (66), \$138,050	72-71-70-69-282	-6
Simon Dyson (0), \$138,050	71-71-68-72-282	-6
Bryce Molder (66), \$138,050	72-67-70-73-282	-6
Robert Karlsson (0), \$110,050	71-71-71-73-283	-5
D.A. Points (58), \$110,050	70-72-70-71-283	-5
Charl Schwartzel (0), \$84,733	73-69-72-72-284	-4
Stephen Gallacher (0), \$84,733	71-69-72-72-284	-4
Steve Stricker (51), \$84,733	72-72-68-72-284	-4
Stewart Cink (51), \$84,733	77-68-66-73-284	-4
Ernie Els (51), \$84,733	68-74-69-73-284	-4
Nick Watney (51), \$84,733	69-68-66-81-284	-4
J.B. Holmes (46), \$58,600	72-66-77-70-285	-3
Carl Pettersson (46), \$58,600	71-70-71-73-285	-3
Simon Khan (0), \$58,600	69-70-71-73-285	-3
Jim Furyk (46), \$58,600	70-69-70-77-285	-3
Troy Matteson (41), \$46,700	72-72-70-72-286	-2
Tiger Woods (41), \$46,700	71-70-72-73-286	-2
Bo Van Pelt (41), \$46,700	73-67-72-74-286	-2
David Horsey (0), \$46,700	72-71-69-74-286	-2
Seung Yul Noh (0), \$46,700	68-71-72-75-286	-2
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano (0), \$37,133	70-73-73-71-287	-1
Ryan Palmer (36), \$37,133	71-68-75-73-287	-1
Heath Slocum (36), \$37,133	73-72-68-74-287	-1
Edoardo Molinari (0), \$37,133	71-72-70-74-287	-1
David Toms (36), \$37,133	74-71-67-75-287	-1
Francesco Molinari (0), \$37,133	68-73-71-75-287	-1
Adam Scott (28), \$25,933	72-73-71-72-288	E
Justin Leonard (28), \$25,933	73-69-73-73-288	E
Ben Crane (28), \$25,933	73-68-73-74-288	E
K.J. Choi (28), \$25,933	74-69-71-74-288	E
Hunter Mahan (28), \$25,933	74-71-68-75-288	E
Tim Clark (28), \$25,933	72-71-70-75-288	E
Vijay Singh (28), \$25,933	73-66-73-76-288	E
Brandt Snedeker (28), \$25,933	75-70-67-76-288	E
Brian Davis (28), \$25,933	71-72-69-76-288	E
Shaun Micheel (20), \$16,971	73-69-76-71-289	+1
Marc Leishman (20), \$16,971	71-73-72-73-289	+1
Darren Clarke (0), \$16,971	74-70-72-73-289	+1
Martin Laird (20), \$16,971	70-74-72-73-289	+1
Charles Howell III (20), \$16,971	69-74-72-74-289	+1
Brendon de Jonge (20), \$16,971	74-66-74-75-289	+1
Kyung-tae Kim (0), \$16,971	70-72-71-76-289	+1
Retief Goosen (15), \$15,750	76-68-74-72-290	+2
Tom Lehman (15), \$15,750	74-70-73-73-290	+2
Davis Love III (15), \$15,750	73-72-72-73-290	+2
Kevin Na (12), \$15,225	74-71-71-75-291	+3
Gregory Bourdy (0), \$15,225	70-70-75-76-291	+3
Rickie Fowler (12), \$15,225	73-71-70-77-291	+3
Peter Hanson (0), \$15,225	71-71-71-78-291	+3
Fredrik Andersson Hed (0), \$14,717	74-71-74-73-292	+4
Chad Campbell (8), \$14,717	70-70-78-74-292	+4
Rhys Davies (0), \$14,717	71-71-75-75-292	+4
Ryan Moore (6), \$14,450	69-76-72-76-293	+5
Brian Gay (6), \$14,450	72-70-71-80-293	+5
D.J. Trahan (4), \$14,300	72-73-74-75-294	+6
Stuart Appleby (3), \$14,150	72-73-73-77-295	+7
Rob Labritz (0), \$14,150	73-71-74-77-295	+7
Ross McGowan (0), \$14,000	73-72-71-81-297	+9
Jeff Overton (1), \$13,900	74-71-74-79-298	+10

x-won three-hole playoff

FedExCup points in parentheses

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SBA Open 8-Ball League Awards

PHOTOS By MONETH G. DEPOSA



USSP Fotten Palau won the Obyan Division regular season championship of Saipan Billiards Association's Open 8-Ball League. Its players are Rick Rengiil, John Mongami, Ron Chisato, Taylor Watanabe, and Arnel Orbita.



Johnny's IT&E Voyagers won the Agingan Division regular season championship of Saipan Billiards Association's Open 8-Ball League. Its players are Rolly Villanueva, Jojo Talibong, R.J. Mascarinas, Luis Fajardo, Roman Rodriguez, Ric Villanueva, Rey Pinangay, and Marc Brian Nelvis.



Utopia NTT Docomo Hustlers was hailed Budweiser Cup champions in the Agingan Division during the awards ceremony for Saipan Billiards Association's Open 8-Ball League held last Aug. 8 at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.



Utopia NTT Docomo Hustlers finished runner-up in the Agingan Division regular season. Its players include Jerry Soriano, Rowel Mariano, Senen Pangilinan, Joey Lucido, Robert Sanciango, Jomer Enriquez, Boyet Sequioco, and Erwin Gomez.



D'Pirates Team Pirates members pose after receiving their Budweiser Cup championship awards during the awards ceremony.



10/10 Bud Brothers won third place in the Agingan Division regular season. Its players include Mark Butac, Chester Hamoy, Dean Borja, Bradley Demapan, Erick Caisip, and Chester Cuento.



Team VFW Shark Attack finished runner-up in the Obyan Division regular season. Its players include Bill Limes, Patrick Taitano, Ben Norita, Bernard Kileleman, Jerry Ayuyu, Lee Roy Limes, and Angel Demapan.



Members of the Team VFW Sentinel won the league's sportsmanship award. Members of the team are Nizer Masayos, Winfred Camacho, Leo Sablan, Steve P. Limes, John Peter, and Bill Kaipat.



USSP Watever won third place in the Obyan Division regular season. Its plays include Rose Phillips, Larry Briones, Wilson Apaisam, Ken Phillips, Norman Tenorio, and Quintin Ngaririos.



Obyan Division MVPs Bill Limes and Arnel Orbita receive their trophies.



Agingan Division MVPs Chester Hamoy (represented by girlfriend Vanessa Ejanda) and Rolly Villanueva receive their trophies.



US beats France
in first exhibition
game

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Rain wipes out
two UFO caging
play dates

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28 TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2010

Rezne honored, blessed to get top athlete award

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

After winning 13 gold medals in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau, Rezne Wong probably should've felt confident that he will take home the Male Top Athlete award of the quadrennial event.

However, the 19-year-old University of Hawaii-Manoa varsity swimmer remained humble even after winning 13 of 14 races he entered at the Palau Na-

"Tia de Prerij"



ional Swimming Pool; and it was certainly a big surprise for him that he copped the prestigious award. "I never knew the Micro Games council even gave the award! I felt very honored to have my name in Micro Games history, especially at one of my last competitions for the CNMI and during the highest peak in my

CNMI swimming career," he said.

The son of Eli and Millet Wong said he is dedicating the award, which came in the form of a giant wooden paddle engraved with the Games' logo, to God and his parents.

"God has given me my whole life, and I owe it all to Him. He's always been there for me, and without Him and His love, I wouldn't be in the place where I am now. His grace has always kept me in safe hands.

"I would also like to thank my Mom and my family for their love and support. No matter how much money you have, how good the coach is, how good the training is, or even how talented you are, I wouldn't have made it here without the support, love, and encourage-

See REZNE on Page 26

CNMI swimming sensation Rezne Wong poses with all 13 gold medals he won in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau.

MARK RABAGO



RIBUNE

Kaymer wins PGA in playoff; Johnson out on penalty

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP)—Martin Kaymer's name is etched on the side of the Wanamaker Trophy.

A far more compelling image from this PGA Championship was Dustin Johnson taking one last look at his scorecard Sunday before turning over his

pencil to use the eraser on his final hole.

The 5 turned into a 7. It kept Johnson out of a playoff, which Kaymer won over Bubba Watson, all because of a tiny patch of sand well right of the 18th

fairway where Johnson gently placed his 4-iron behind the ball, unaware that it was part of a bunker.

"It never crossed my mind that I was in a sand trap," Johnson said.

The resulting two-stroke penalty for grounding his club in a bunker—outside the ropes, where thousands of fans had been walking all week—turned a thrilling final hour into a controversial finish that will be debated for years.

In a strange season of golf, from Tiger Woods' sex scandal to unlikely winners in the majors, this one topped them all.

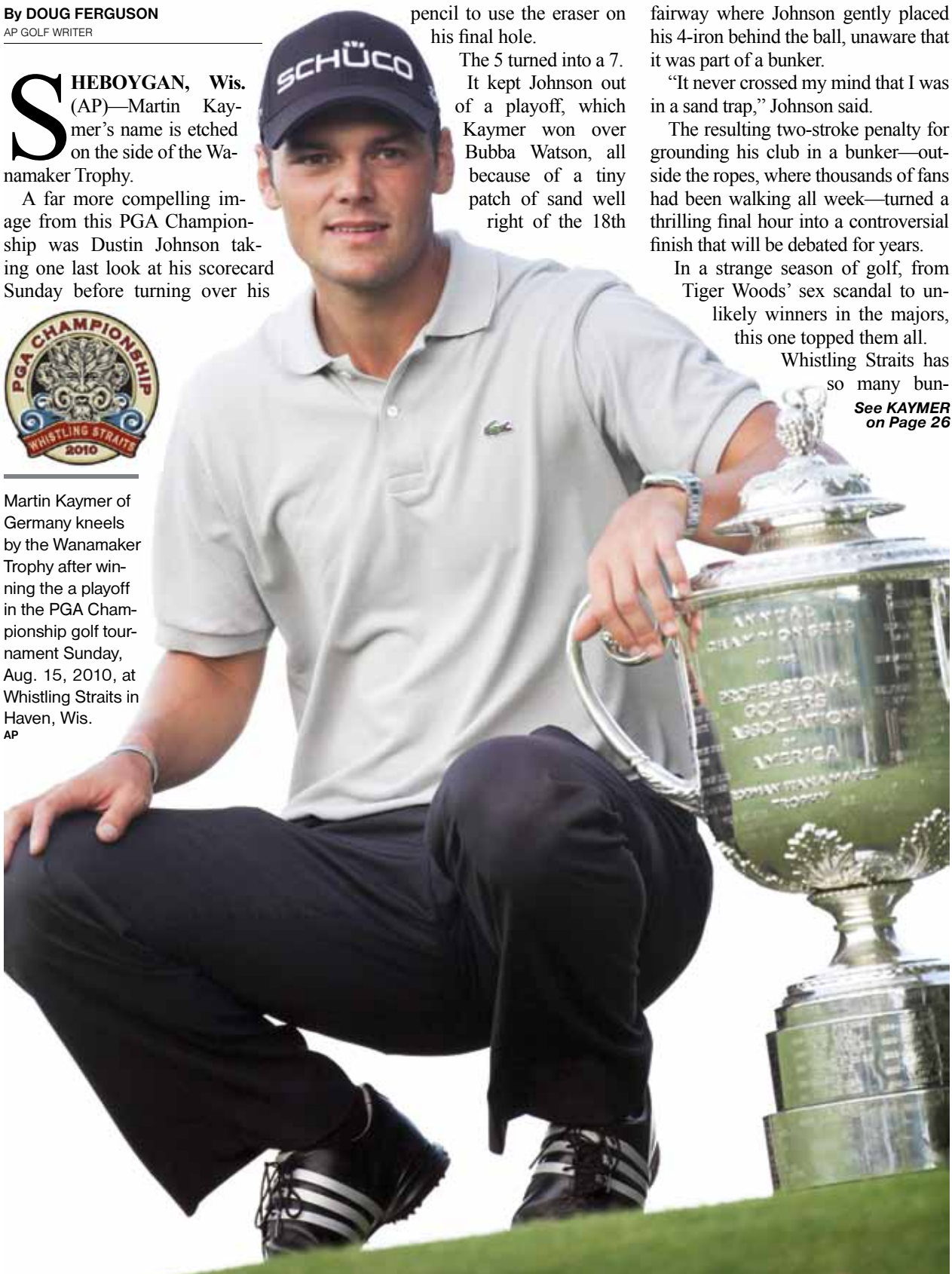
Whistling Straits has so many bun-

See KAYMER on Page 26



Martin Kaymer of Germany kneels by the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the a playoff in the PGA Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010, at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis.

AP



CNMI Senior All-Stars fall to Aruba, 4-8

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Senior League All-Stars lost their Little League World Series debut against San Nicolas, Aruba, 8-4, yesterday in Bangor, Maine.

CNMI sluggers will get a day's rest today and are scheduled to play the U.S. West representative team from Manhattan Beach, California tomorrow, 8pm Eastern Standard time.

Joseph Palacios started on the mound for the Asia-Pacific champions and unfortunately his defense suffered a shaky start in the match. Aruba scored four runs off two hits and two errors.

Palacios got the first batter to pop out, but then gave up a walk. The clean up batter reached off an error, allowing the lead runner to score. Then a dropped third strike put runners on the corners and the Latin America champions connected with a two-RBI single. Aruba's sixth batter singled in their fourth run of the inning.

The CNMI tried to answer back with two runs off a hit and an error in the bottom half. MacGarette Duenas reached with a leadoff walk and a strikeout later Palacios and Richard Dela Cruz both drew free passes to load up the bases. A second strikeout later, Marvin Ngeskebei singled in Duenas and the bases remained loaded. Jeremy Lizama then reached off an error that brought in Palacios before Aruba closed the last out.

After a scoreless second, Aruba made it 6-2 in the top of the third with

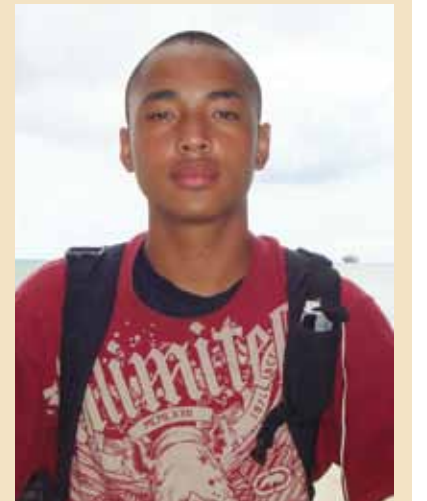
two more runs off of two hits and an error. Palacios gave up singles to his first two batters, found a strikeout, but then walked the fourth batter to load up the bases. The next batter hit a sacrifice fly and then Aruba scored off an error before Palacios could get out of the inning.

CNMI failed to answer in the bottom half and Aruba came back again with a run of two hits in the top of the fourth. Palacios struck out his first man, but then gave up a double. The next batter hit an RBI single and Harry Nakamura came to the mound in relief for Palacios. Nakamura struck out his first man, gave up a walk, and then the CNMI caught a runner at the plate trying to steal home.

The CNMI bats remained cold in the bottom half, but Nakamura pitched a solid fifth inning. He gave up a lead off walk, but then struck out the next two batters looking. Nakamura then walked the bases loaded before ringing up his sixth man for the shutout frame. But the score remained, 7-2, Aruba, as CNMI still could not produce any more offense since the first inning.

Aruba added a run in the top of the sixth off a hit and an error. Nathan Guererro started the sixth on the mound in relief for Nakamura. He struck out his first man, but then made a fielding error on the mound that allowed the next batter to reach base. Guerrero came back with another strikeout, but then gave up an RBI double.

See CNMI on Page 26



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Richard Dela Cruz, left, went 2-for-3 at the plate and teammate Nate Guerrero, right, pitched five strikeouts in two innings but the CNMI Senior League All-Stars lost to Aruba, 4-8, at the start of the 2010 World Series yesterday in Bangor, Maine.